

AIDS Hits 20,000 Mark in U.S.

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The Community We Create Lesbians and Kids



Interview: Sex Therapist Margie Nichols

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U.S. AIDS Cases Pass the 20,000 Mark

By Marcos Bisticas-Cocoves

ATLANTA—The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) reports that, as of April 28, there are 20,088 cases of AIDS in the United States.

The CDC uses a particular set of criteria in defining AIDS. According to the CDC surveillance definition, a person with AIDS is anyone "who has a disease at least moderately indicative of underlying cellular immunodeficiency... but who has no known cause of reduced resistance to that disease." In short, only people with recognized opportunistic infections are considered to have the syndrome.

This definition excludes cases of AIDS-Related Complex (ARC), an immune deficiency which may be severely debilitating. Some epidemiologists have estimated that between five and ten times the number of people officially reported have some immune suppression related to AIDS.

The figures (see charts) are based on reports by local health departments and physicians to the CDC. They are only as accurate and timely as those reports. CDC spokesperson Chuck Fallis said there is often a lag of two to three months between diagnosis and report.

"Adults and Adolescents with AIDS by Risk Group" uses the CDC's categories in breaking down data on people with AIDS. The CDC considers the five groups listed to be at special risk for contracting the disease. The groups are organized in a hierarchy, and a case is categorized in the first group it falls under on the list. Thus, an intravenous drug user who is a bisexual man would be seen only as a gay or bisexual man for statistical purposes.

Adults and Adolescents with AIDS by Risk Group

	Men		Women		Total	
	Cases	(%)	Cases	(%)	Cases	(%)
Homosexual and bisexual men	14,520	(78)	—	(—)	14,520	(73)
Intravenous drug users	2713	(15)	686	(53)	3399	(17)
Hemophiliacs and Persons with coagulation disorders	154	(1)	4	(0)	158	(1)
Heterosexual contact	53	(0)	233	(18)	286	(1)
Transfusion with blood or blood products	200	(1)	118	(9)	318	(2)
None of the above/other	863	(5)	263	(20)	1126	(6)
Total	18,503	(100)	1304	(100)	19,807	(100)

There is no standard definition of a gay or bisexual man.

"People with AIDS by Patient Group" organizes the CDC's information in a different way. Homosexual and bisexual men who are intravenous drug users are displayed separately from both other intravenous drug users and other gay and bisexual men. People from countries where AIDS cases have no known risk, such as Haiti and some central African countries, are separated from the last, catch-all category.

Although the two charts are not strictly comparable (the first con-

cerns just adult and adolescents, the second all people with AIDS), the differences between them are revealing. For instance, the CDC's original statistics show that 78 percent of all men, and 73 percent of all adults and adolescents, are gay and bisexual men. The adjusted figure, however, shows that under 65 percent of all people with AIDS are simply gay or bisexual men.

When asked about the ten to 13-point discrepancy between the two sets of figures, a source in the CDC who wishes to remain confidential admitted that the statistics

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People with AIDS by Patient Group

	Cases	(%)
Homosexual and bisexual men who are intravenous drug users	1584	(7.9)
Homosexual and bisexual men who are not intravenous drug users	12,936	(64.4)
Intravenous drug users who are not homosexual or bisexual men	3399	(16.9)
Hemophiliacs and people with coagulation disorders	170	(0.8)
Child with parent with AIDS or at increased risk	212	(1.1)
Heterosexual contact	286	(1.4)
Transfusion with blood or blood products	362	(1.8)
People from countries where AIDS cases have no known risk	448	(2.2)
None of the above/other	691	(3.4)
Total	20,088	(99.9)

Northampton Hosts First U.S. Pride March

By Gordon Gottlieb

NORTHAMPTON, MA — Lesbians and gay men filled the streets of this western Massachusetts town on May 3, as they celebrated the first pride event of 1986. According to march organizers, more than 1500 people participated in the

march and subsequent rally. Police officials estimated there were fewer than 1000 marchers.

During the three-hour rally, interspersed among performances by local entertainers, speakers addressed major state and national issues

that directly affect gay men and lesbians. Keynote speaker Margaret Cerullo, a member of the Gay and Lesbian Defense Committee, noted with pride their success in building coalitions with people of color to fight the state foster care policy. Similarly, Alan Kuconis of the AIDS Action Committee spoke about the need to build alliances around AIDS, a disease, he predicted, that will ultimately touch the lives of all gay men and lesbians. Bette Birdfish, a member of the S/M support group Shelix, said the likelihood of lesbians and bisexual women contracting AIDS will increase as women have sex with people in high-risk categories. As such, AIDS becomes of even more concern to lesbians, she said.

Despite its small size, Northampton boasts a large and active women's community. Its visibility and strength have made it the target of violence and harassment over the years. (See *GCN*, Vol. 13, No. 1). During the march, no incidents were reported, although a bus full of counter-demonstrators, apparently affiliated with a neighboring town's Baptist church, briefly chanted their opposition to homosexuality, until a member of the Northampton police department asked them to leave the rally area.

—filed from Boston



Dancer Erika Thorne at pride march. She later performed at the rally, Northampton, May 3. (More pride photos, p.11.)

Wheaton Lesbians Tackle Homophobia

By Laurie Sherman

NORTON, MA — In response to unusual incidents of harassment of lesbians at Wheaton College, a new task force is challenging campus homophobia with equally unusual determination. Faculty, administrators, and students at this 1,200-student women's college have set up programs to address homophobia in dormitories, in the academic curriculum, and in the campus population as a whole.

In the fall of 1985, lesbian students began organizing and speaking to faculty and administrators about harassment, which included verbal and written slurs, and student requests to transfer out of rooms shared with lesbians. The most dramatic form of harassment were phone calls to the parents of closeted lesbian students in which the callers revealed the students' lesbianism and gave intimate details of their personal lives. At least 14 calls have been made over the last two years, with many of them occurring last fall. The calls often resulted in violent reactions from parents whom the callers urged to "save" their daughters. (See *GCN* Vol. 13, No. 23).

In an effort to respond to lesbians' concerns about the increasing campus homophobia, Niki Janus, dean of the college, hired two lesbian psychologists as consultants for the spring 1986 semester. Laura Nemeyer worked with the administration and faculty, while Sharon Sass acted as advisor to the Lesbian Alliance, a campus activist organization and discussion group.

The consultants worked with Janus to create the new task force. According to Mary, a member of both the Lesbian Alliance and the task force, who wishes to remain anonymous, the group sponsored two forums in each of three

dorms. The first covered sexual choices in general, including discussion of abortion, birth control and sexual orientation. The second focused on homosexuality, with discussion of lesbians' experiences at Wheaton and audience role plays to address homophobic situations.

The task force met twice with faculty members. In the first gathering, Nemeyer lectured about homophobia to over half the Wheaton faculty. The second meeting critiqued the lack of lesbian and gay content in the academic curriculum.

In a panel aimed at the entire campus, "Sexual Women: The Art of Making Choices," a feminist therapist, a Religious Studies professor, a psychologist, and Wheaton's director of Women's Studies spoke to about 150 students and 40 staff members, according to Mary.

How successful have the consultants and the task force been in challenging homophobia at Wheaton? Extremely successful, according to Mary, Susan and Kim, all members of the Lesbian Alliance whose parents have received at least one harassing phone call each in the last year. "It's funny to say," laughed Mary, "but I'm getting sick of hearing about lesbianism in my classes." Mary told *GCN* that professors have not only begun to include lesbian/gay material in their courses, but also discussion of women of color, altering the academic norm of considering the heterosexual, white and male experience to be universal.

In another indication of change at Wheaton, the Lesbian Alliance has for the first time been added to the list of student groups sent to prospective students and their parents. Nemeyer has organized

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News Notes

the uphill battle for human rights ordinances

ATLANTA — The City Council here has passed a lesbian/gay rights ordinance by a vote of 14-4. The law amends the city charter to protect lesbian and gay city employees from discrimination, according to the Philadelphia *Gay News*.

Meanwhile, opponents of lesbians and gay men have launched initiative campaigns to repeal recently enacted human rights ordinances in two Northern California cities. Ordinances extending housing and employment protection to lesbians and gay men were passed this spring by the city councils of Davis and Sacramento following public debate and lobbying by Sacramentans for Justice (SFJ) and the Davis-based Citizens and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (CFLAG).

In Davis, where the ordinance also protects other oppressed groups, activists expect a repeal initiative to qualify for a special election in August, when much of the student population will be on vacation. Proponents of the ordinance have been subjected to threats, verbal abuse and physical attacks.

In Sacramento, a coalition of conservative religious and business leaders are attempting to force a repeal initiative on the November ballot.

Contributions to defend the human rights ordinances of Davis and Sacramento may be sent to: Northern California Human Rights Fund, P.O. Box 161958, Sacramento, CA 95816.

— Stephanie Poggi

price of aids drug tripled

COSTA MESA, CA — The price of the anti-viral drug Ribavirin has been tripled by its manufacturer here, according to D.A.I.R., the Documentation of AIDS Issues and Research Foundation, Inc. ICN Pharmaceuticals raised the price from \$6.95 to \$20.50 for a box of 12 capsules, bringing the cost per month for an individual's use up to \$300.

Ribavirin, one of the few available treatments for AIDS and ARC with substantial credibility among medical researchers, is thought to be used legally by 3,000 to 10,000 people in the U.S. under the supervision of physicians. It is not yet licensed in the U.S. but the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) permits importation from Mexico for use by individuals.

The April 1986 D.A.I.R. bulletin notes, "Ribavirin is now priced beyond the economic reach of all but wealthy patients. Since the drug is not licensed by the FDA, its cost is not covered by insurance plans," and concludes, "[The price increase] is particularly disturbing in that it exploits people already suffering from physical, emotional and financial devastation."

— Stephanie Poggi

jury awards gay fire fighter \$57,000

SPOKANE, WA — A gay man who worked 19 years as a firefighter here has been awarded \$57,000 by a jury that agreed his privacy was invaded when co-workers replayed a phone conversation that revealed his homosexuality.

According to the *Advocate*, Darrell Downey, 43, received a call in 1984 from a gay nephew while at work at the Spokane International Airport Fire Department. The call was on the emergency line fire department members had to use for personal calls. While Downey was aware the conversation would be automatically recorded as all incoming calls were, he assumed his superiors would realize the call was personal and would not listen to it. His superiors not only listened to it, but played it back to other staff.

— Julie Ogletree

protesters greet reagan at posh fund-raiser

NEW YORK — Approximately 300 people picketed opposite the Waldorf Astoria Hotel on April 18 as President Ronald Reagan attended a \$1000-a-plate fund-raising luncheon inside. The luncheon was a benefit for Alphonse D'Amato, U.S. Senator from New York. The protest was organized by People's Anti-War Mobilization.

Demonstrators were protesting U.S. involvement in Libya, South Africa and Nicaragua, as well as the Reagan administration's oppression of women, people of color, lesbians, gay men, the poor and homeless in this country.

Among the groups represented were Mobilization for Lesbian and Gay Survival; Riverside Disarmament, affiliated with the interdenominational Riverside Church in upper Manhattan; the Pledge of Resistance, opposed to U.S. intervention in Central America and dedicated to civil disobedience; and All People's Congress. Protesters chanted "North Africa, South Africa, USA Out" and heard speakers on apartheid and other issues.

Activist Bill Brunkhurst, who represents Metropolitan Community Church, New York, in the Pledge of Resistance, reported that hostile "passersby cheer[ed] when killing was mentioned" by the speakers.

Brunkhurst also told GCN that one member of a group dressed in leather performing street theater was arrested by four policemen during the demonstration and charged with spitting at a car.

— Bruce-Michael Gelbert

benefit for twa attendants

DORCHESTER, MA — A dance/benefit for the striking TWA flight attendants will be held at Freeport Hall, 256 Freeport Street here, May 31, beginning at 8 p.m. Performers include Girls' Night Out and the Girlillas. Parking is available and the hall is wheelchair accessible. Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door. For more information, call (617) 576-6788.

— Stephanie Poggi

hundreds march against prison conditions

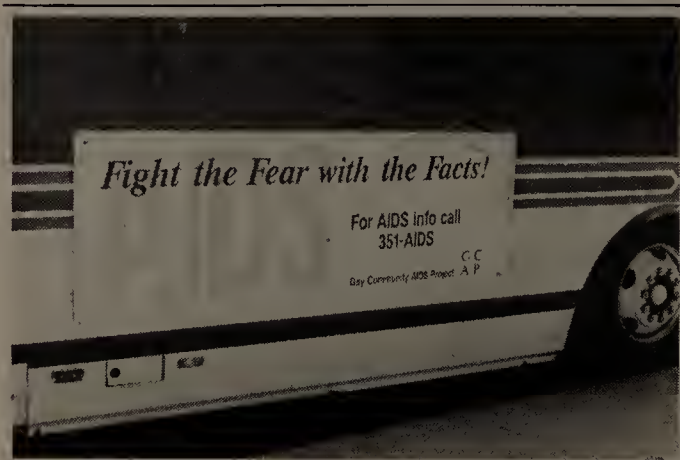
On April 19, a number of lesbians and gay men joined demonstrations around the country against inhuman conditions for prison inmates, particularly political prisoners. In New York City, activists from around the Northeast, including a Boston contingent, marched from the Brooklyn House of Detention to Manhattan's Metropolitan Correctional Center (MCC), which currently holds 40 political prisoners. The protests were part of a national campaign focusing on "Control Units" at prisons in Marion, Illinois, and Lexington, Kentucky, both of which were also sites of demonstrations on April 19. Protests were also held at MCC in Tucson, Arizona, and Rio Piedras Prison in Puerto Rico. On April 26, a related protest occurred outside San Quentin Prison, Tamal, California.

The campaign's sponsors are the National Committee to Defend New Afrikan Freedom Fighters and the National Committee to Free Puerto Rican Prisoners of War.

According to the campaign's National Coordinator, Ashanti Chimurenga, the Marion Control Unit, reserved for so-called "violent" inmates and political prisoners, practices "calculated sensory deprivation." Inmates are locked in isolation cells 23½ hours a day. Phone and mail contact with the outside world is limited and closely monitored; visits are conducted through glass. At present, Sekou Odinga and Sundiata Acoli, two New Afrikan Prisoners of War (guerrillas fighting for an independent Black nation) are at Marion. The Lexington, Kentucky, prison is scheduled to open a similar control unit for women shortly. Two women guerrillas, Puerto Rican Prisoner of War Alejandra Torres and North American political prisoner Susan Rosenberg, are due to be transferred to Lexington when the unit opens. One focus of the protest campaign is the increasing sexual harassment of women political prisoners, which has included extended placement in all-male units, sexual assault, and degrading strip-searches.

For more information about the continuing campaign, call (212) 244-9640, or write: National Committee, Box 1184, Manhattanville Station, New York, NY 10027.

— Bob Lederer



CHAMPAIGN-URBANA, IL — Gay community AIDS Project media blitz on Metropolitan Transit District bus system.

times are hard, but *plexus* is back

OAKLAND, CA — Despite a continuing financial crisis, *Plexus*, the West Coast's oldest women's newspaper, has resumed publication after a one-month suspension. According to Donna Henry, a member of the staff collective, response to *Plexus'* appeal for funds and new volunteers has been good and the collective is confident it can continue publishing. However, Henry cautioned, *Plexus* currently cannot afford to put out more than skeletal issues that include only calendar items and advertising.

In a press release on the financial crisis, the *Plexus* staff notes that "in recent years the women's community has seen far more women's presses falter and fall than begin. And each of the newspapers that has survived has only done so in the face of economic hardship." *Big Mama Rag* and *New Women's Times* have folded and *Sojourney* of Boston was forced to briefly suspend publication last year.

Plexus' fund-raising campaign includes a benefit concert at Ollie's here on June 13, with performances by Rhiannon, Mary Watkins, Mimi Fox, and Janet Small. For more information about the benefit or to support *Plexus* financially or through volunteer energy, call the office at (415) 451-2585 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays.

— Stephanie Poggi

oregon lesbians gather to 'unlearn' anti-semitism

EUGENE, OR — More than 60 women gathered here April 6 for a full-day workshop on "Unlearning Anti-Semitism," sponsored by the local Lesbians In Coalition Against Racism and Anti-Semitism (LIC). Activities included educational presentations, consciousness-raising, political theater, and brainstorming ways to fight anti-Semitism. A speak-out raised issues ranging from personal difficulties in "mixed" relationships to concern about regional Neo-Nazi organizing. Bagels and folkdancing highlighted the agenda.

Feedback on the workshop has been positive: non-Jews report new awareness and commitment to acting as "allies"; Jewish women express appreciation of non-Jewish support and of the opportunity to develop stronger connections among themselves. Similar projects are being planned for the future.

— Laura Philips

girth and mirth national convention

SAN FRANCISCO — The Girth and Mirth Club of San Francisco, dedicated to providing "fun, and only fun" for fat gay men and their admirers, will host Convergence '86, the fifth national big men's convention, from August 29 to September 1. Events include sightseeing, bar hopping, discussions on the problems fat men face, a fashion show, ballroom dancing and pool party.

Girth and Mirth of San Francisco, officially begun in May of 1976, was the pioneer in fat gay men's clubs which later sprang up in Los Angeles in 1977, in New York in 1978 and in Chicago in 1980. Other clubs have formed in Washington D.C., Philadelphia, Atlanta, Houston, Seattle and most recently in Boston, Denver, and San Diego.

The purpose of the San Francisco club is to "help fat gay men develop a positive image of themselves by providing an atmosphere of total acceptance.... It is not only okay to be a fat gay but it can be desirable to be a fat gay." The club philosophy is to concern itself solely with social and education efforts, because "political issues take all of the fun out of the scene."

GM/SF publishes a newsletter called Fat City by the Bay with an extensive Pen-Pal section called the Meet Rack and is presently making plans to expand to a national magazine format.

To find out more or to register for Convergence '86, write San Francisco International Girth and Mirth Club, Inc., 495 Ellis St., No.164, San Francisco, CA 94102 or call (415) 680-7612.

gay caucus sponsors 8th district forum

BOSTON — The Massachusetts Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus will sponsor a candidates night for those persons seeking election to the 8th Congressional District seat currently occupied by 'Tip' O'Neil.

The candidates night will take place on June 3 at the University of Massachusetts campus in Park Square; Room 222, at 7 p.m.

— Kim Westheimer

gay pres for mass college of art student government

BOSTON — An openly gay man was elected President of Massachusetts College of Art's student government on April 18. David Mynott II, who is the first openly gay man to hold this position, is also the founding member and president of Gay and Lesbian Artists (GALA) at the college.

Mynott told GCN that his sexuality was not a major issue for the student body. "I caught them by surprise," he said. Mynott added that he believes homophobes did not go after him because, "They expect a stereotypic [gay man] and instead saw someone who appears to be conservative."

— Kim Westheimer

charges against contra protesters effectively dismissed

BOSTON — Two women, arrested for sitting in front of an elevator access to a CIA office during an anti-Contra aid protest here on April 14, were given continuances without findings in court proceedings on May 14. The continuances effectively dismiss the trespass charges if the women are not arrested again within a probation period, six months in the case of first offender Laurie Bozzi, and a year for veteran protester Ellie Rosenberg. The women, members of a lesbian and feminist affinity group, must also serve 30 hours of community service and pay a standard court fine of \$15 to the victim-witness-restitution program.

Asked if they felt the protest was worth their time in the "justice system," the women expressed their willingness to accept the risks of civil disobedience. Rosenberg spoke of her positive feelings about the demonstration, noting that the House of Representatives defeated President Reagan's \$100 million Contra-aid proposal on the day after the Boston sit-in, organized by the Pledge of Resistance. Rosenberg added, "I can't help feeling that we had something to do with [that vote]."

— Loie Hayes

News Commentary

Choice Group Says No to Lesbians, Gay Men

By Kim Westheimer

BOSTON—When the Coalition for Choice invited Gov. Michael Dukakis to speak at a January abortion rights rally, members of the lesbian and gay community were outraged. (See *GCN*, Vol. 13, No. 29). The Gay and Lesbian Defense committee (GLDC) protested Dukakis's presence at the rally, arguing it was inappropriate for him to speak in favor of reproductive rights when he had just limited the rights of lesbian and gay men to be foster parents. Now, four months later, it remains to be seen whether lesbian and gay activists and the Coalition for Choice will work together to fight a statewide anti-abortion referendum which will appear on the ballot in November of this year. (See *GCN*, Vol. 13, No. 42). The Coalition was formed in 1983 specifically to combat such a referendum.

Most recently, lesbian and gay reproductive rights activists have expressed anger with the results of a February meeting organized to discuss their grievances with Coalition leaders. During that meeting, the lesbian and gay activists asked the Coalition to take action on four demands:

- *Write a private or public letter to Dukakis from the Coalition stating their disapproval with his foster care policy.

- *Promise not to ask Dukakis to speak at future Coalition events.

- *State opposition to the state's foster care policy on Coalition literature.

- *Have a lesbian, gay man or single parent speak about the foster care policy at a future event.

The Coalition's steering committee, responding approximately a month after the demands were made, refused to agree to any of the demands to produce a compromise. The decision was unanimous.

In addition to not meeting the demands of the lesbian and gay activists, the Coalition maintains that inviting Dukakis to their event was appropriate. They say that Dukakis in his role of governor could draw the public attention needed for their issue. Coalition steering committee member Pam Nourse, of Mass. CHOICE, explained. "We only looked at one issue. We didn't take into account his stand on other questions. Politically, if Dukakis was not the governor of this state, if he had been in a different position, we would not have invited him [given his foster care policy]. In his position as governor of this state it is critical that he be up front in his opposition [to the referendum]."

The issue, say Coalition members, is one of political strategy. Responding to the demands in a letter to GLDC, Nicki Nichols Gamble, the Coalition chairperson, and director of Planned Parenthood of Massachusetts, wrote, "We believe that it is not in the best interests of our primary goal—defeating the amendment—to broaden our political agenda beyond that goal. Thus, as a coalition we will not be pursuing related reproductive health care goals during 1986." Gamble also wrote, "We want to assure you that the position of the Coalition for Choice regarding your requests does not reflect the positions of the organizations we represent nor our individual attitudes toward the administration's foster care policy."

Coalition steering committee member John Roberts, a member of the Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts, summarized the Coalition's philosophy of organizing, saying they want to "draw a broad coalition on narrow grounds."

"Our agenda must be that of a single issue or it becomes confusing," elaborated Carol Doherty, the Coalition staff person. "If the Coalition for Choice went out with a variety of agenda items not necessarily related to the referendum it would be confusing

and [more difficult to] educate the public."

"Abortion is not a separate issue from our right to control our bodies sexually," counters Gay and Lesbian Defense Committee (GLDC) member Sarah Holmes. Reproductive rights involves a woman's right to choose whether or not to parent, a woman's right to forms of alternative insemination and access to health care and sex information, insists Holmes. "It's all the same thing—control of our bodies."

Asked to respond to the Coalition's claim that it does not make good organizing sense to focus on all of these issues at once, Holmes said, "It [single issue organizing] hasn't been proven to be effective. We think they're wrong."

Lesbian activist Nancy Wechsler,

who met with the Coalition in February along with Holmes and two other lesbians and one gay man, agrees that single issue organizing is not the most effective: "Grassroots multi-issue organizing activates more people to get involved in organizing [and] makes the links to people."

Wechsler sees the Coalition as not only refusing to broaden their agenda but refusing to make room in the organization for a broad-based coalition. "It wouldn't have cost them to say okay to some of the demands. They weren't even willing to write a letter or to budge to make room for gay people in the Coalition."

When asked if she was worried about losing lesbian and gay support for the referendum fight, Plan-

ned Parenthood staff and Coalition member Susan Newsom said, "Yes and no. I've talked to many lesbian and gay activists. Some feel some people will pull back support. Most say they will not and understand what the Coalition is doing and feel [it is] correct."

A number of lesbian activists told *GCN* that they do not know any lesbians or gay men who support the Coalition's exclusion of related reproductive rights issues. Lesbians and gay men are organizing against the referendum, but are doing so with multi-issue groups such as the Boston chapter of the National Organization for Women, the Reproductive Rights National Network (R2N2) of Boston, and the Gay and Lesbian Defense Committee.

Such activists acknowledge that it may be difficult to get a broad agenda across. "They [the Coalition] are having a big voice in defining the issue around the referendum. We will have to work hard to broaden the issue and get more people involved," said Shelley Mains, a lesbian R2N2 member. "I'm tired of rehashing what they've done to us. I want to move on." Mains, citing the success of a R2N2- and Boston NOW-sponsored rally following the state legislature's vote in favor of the anti-abortion referendum, said working outside the Coalition has been "uplifting and gratifying." Mains added, "We can't pretend they [the Coalition] are not here, but I'd like to."

Abortion, death penalty stands debated

BLGPA Endorses Candidates for State Legislature

By Kim Westheimer

BOSTON — The Boston Lesbian and Gay Political Alliance, in its annual candidates night, listened to and endorsed Boston area politicians seeking election to the state legislature. Twelve candidates received the two-thirds majority vote by Alliance members necessary for the organization's endorsement.

Alliance chair Will Hutchison told *GCN* he was extremely pleased with the presence of over 100 people in the audience and 20 of the 69 invited candidates. Fewer than 45 of those attending the forum were voting Alliance members. This turnout allayed fears, said Hutchison, that candidates might react to AIDS phobia and the current foster care controversy by not thinking it politically expedient to go after lesbian and gay votes.

Each candidate was allowed a two-minute presentation followed by a five-minute question-and-answer period. In addition, candidates had previously been asked to complete a questionnaire. Questions most frequently asked of the 20 candidates participating in the forum included: Do you support the state's exclusionary foster care policy? Will you vote

for Governor Dukakis at the statewide Democratic convention; Do you support giving gay and lesbian couples the same legal rights given married straight couples?

On foster care, the candidates were nearly unanimous in voicing their opposition to the current policy. One exception to this was Morgan Palmer, a Republican running for the seat vacated by Representative Thomas Valley. Palmer said if he had been a legislator facing the vote to ban lesbian and gay foster parents, he would have "had a terrible time." "Most people who voted for [the resolution] were defending infants," said Palmer. Immediately following this statement, Alliance chair Will Hutchison motioned that Palmer's time was up, avoiding a confrontation between the audience and the candidate.

The Democratic candidates were unanimous in stating they would vote for Dukakis at the Democratic Convention on May 17. State Sen. Eleanor Myerson's sentiments around this issue were echoed by a number of candidates who said, given the alternatives, it is important for liberal people not to abandon Dukakis. "I hope we can reach him," said Myerson,

"[I've talked to] him on an individual basis. [This] doesn't make a deep impression. We have to get a few more like-minded people to join us."

Candidates were frequently unclear regarding the rights of lesbian and gay couples. Alliance member Mark Roosevelt, a candidate running for the seat vacated by State Sen. George Bachrach, responded to this question by asking for "help." "Help me define what a couple is. How are roommates going to be defined? If the concept is equity, I'll support you." Myerson said she would support, but not sponsor, legislation to give legal rights to lesbian and gay couples. Michael Barrett, a candidate running for the seat vacated by George Bachrach, stated in his completed questionnaire, "Asking a legislative body to set standards between the deserving and undeserving relationships in the gay community raises explosive private issues." He suggested innovations in this area be channeled through hospitals, hospices and insurers, saying he would be interested in "helping achieve these innovations."

Senate hopeful Robert McClellan, who did not appear at the forum, but sent in a complete questionnaire, was the only candidate who stated definitively that he would not support legal rights for lesbian and gay couples.

Stating that they would categorically support legal rights for lesbians and gay couples were Senate candidates Marc Draisen, Kevin McFadden, Olivia Golden, Althea Garrison as well as House contenders John McDonough and Carol Wolfe.

Only one candidate, Representative Sal DiMasi, did not, when asked, categorically support abortion rights. DiMasi, who has been a vocal supporter of the lesbian and gay civil rights bill since it was first introduced, has voted for anti-abortion legislation in the past. Most recently, DiMasi "walked" to avoid voting on the anti-abortion referendum now approved for the November ballot (See *GCN* Vol. 13, No. 42). DiMasi told the audience he has been reconsidering his position regarding a woman's right to abortion although he has "problems with [abortion] personally."

In 1984, the Alliance chose not to endorse DiMasi (See *GCN* Vol. 12, No. 8), despite his strong stance on gay civil rights, because he was anti-abortion and for the death penalty. This year, Alliance members discussed both these issues before deciding to endorse DiMasi. Openly gay Boston

Human Rights Commissioner Fred Mandel, citing DiMasi's support of the death penalty and his failure to vote against the anti-abortion referendum, motioned not to endorse DiMasi. Arline Isaacson, co-chair of the Massachusetts Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus, said DiMasi is no longer in favor of the death penalty, and argued strongly for endorsing candidates such as DiMasi who are "so in favor of the gay rights bill."

When questioned by *GCN*, DiMasi's administrative assistant, Bob Dellorusso, said DiMasi is "rethinking his previous stand [in support of] the death penalty." DiMasi was endorsed by just a little more than the two-thirds majority of the Alliance necessary: 30 members voted to endorse DiMasi, four supported his competitor Regina Placid, and eight abstained.

Another controversial decision within the organization was the vote to endorse Olivia Golden instead of Michael Barrett. Golden's answer to all of the questions on the Alliance questionnaire were deemed "positive," while Barrett waffled on the issue of giving legal status to lesbian and gay couples and did not support an amendment to the charter of the State Democratic Party which would encourage outreach to the lesbian and gay community. "I oppose in general so-called outreach programs," said Barrett, who claimed such programs "allow the opposition to suggest we're merely [composed of] disparate parts."

Barrett, a former state representative, found support from Alliance members who said he had the greatest chance of winning. Barrett's endorsement by liberal politicians Barney Frank and Sandra Graham were used to substantiate this claim.

Other Alliance members, including Rosemary Dunn Dalton who is working on Golden's campaign, pointed to Golden's commitment to progressive issues. Golden had told the group she would fight to repeal the foster care policy, pass the gay rights bill, increase AIDS funding and legislate affordable housing.

It took three successive votes to come up with exactly the two-thirds majority needed to endorse Golden.

Three of the candidates endorsed by the Alliance, Kevin McFadden, Carol Wolfe and Mark Roosevelt are Alliance members. Of these candidates only one, Kevin McFadden, is running as an openly gay candidate.

Candidates Who Attended the Alliance Forum

Candidate	District
*Eleanor Myerson (D)I	Brookline, Jamaica Plain, West
Alan Danovitch (D)	Roxbury, Roslindale
*Carol Wolfe (D)	Allston, Brighton
Kevin Honan (D)	
Morgan Palmer (R)	Beacon Hill
Glenn Fiscus (R)	
*Mark Roosevelt (D)	
*Bill Owens (I)	South End, Roxbury, Dorchester
*Royal Bolling, Sr. (D)I	
*Evin McFadden (D)	Dorchester, Milton, Randolph
Althea Garrison (D)	South Boston and Dorchester
*Byron Rushing (D)I	South End, Kenmore Sq., Roxbury
	Beacon Hill
*Olivia Golden (D)	Allston, Brighton, Belmont,
Michael Barrett (D)	Cambridge, Watertown
Regina Placid (D)	Roxbury, South End, Chinatown,
*Sal DiMasi (D)I	North End, Downtown
*Marc Draisen (D)	Jamaica Plain, Roslindale,
	Dedham, West Roxbury, Walpole
Kathy Stewart (D)	Jamaica Plain, Roslindale
*John McDonough (D)I	
*Gloria Fox (D)I	Roxbury, Dorchester
*Endorsed by the Alliance	
I-Incumbent	

Editorial

Our Letters Policy

As clearly as we can remember, *GCN* has traditionally published all letters to the editor — with one major exception: those deemed to be “personal attacks” (roughly defined as letters that insult, mock or attack an individual without differentiating between the person and her/his ideas, opinions, politics and/or affiliations).

This policy has been the subject of much discussion since *GCN* received an anti-semitic letter in response to a December Speaking Out. Since that letter was published, other letter writers have penned diverse opinions on the issue: from arguments against *GCN*’s printing letters which attack groups (Jews, Blacks, women, poor people, etc.), to proposals for printing all letters, regardless of personal or political attacks.

After much consideration, *GCN*’s staff recently decided to reaffirm the policy of printing all letters except personal attacks. The impetus for this decision came from the feeling of many

staffers that prejudice and bigotry hidden from the public is more dangerous than such sentiments exposed for public debate. We also acknowledged that it would be difficult for all of us to agree on what letters constituted attacks on groups.

While we reaffirm this policy, we want *GCN*’s readers to know our decision was not unanimous. Some staffers felt that racist, classist, ethnocentric and sexist assaults should have no place in *GCN*’s pages. Others argued that to universally dismiss personal attacks as inappropriate to political debate denies the connections between a person’s ideas and the experiences which helped formulate those ideas. As we recognize that there was no way to reconcile these divergent views, we agreed to accept the will of the majority and to reaffirm the policy.

The issues raised in this controversy are emotionally and politically complex. We welcome response to our decision.

GCN’s editorials reflect the collective opinion of the paid, full-time staff.

Community Voices

through the cracks bisexual viewpoint

Dear *GCN*:

Your ongoing ad for the Fenway Community Health Center has slipped through the cracks of radicalized consciousness. Women’s and Gay Men’s Health are identified as two separate categories. But within Women’s Health the boundaries blur. It is politically morose to identify a practitioner’s experience as in “gay, lesbian and women’s health care.” Can we assume this to mean gay men and lesbian, bisexual and sexually transitional, asexual and heterosexual women’s health care? As the ad stands, lesbian is a not-woman.

The greatest struggle against bigotry still is within our own ranks. Try harder, please.

Thanks,
Tracy Wright
Seattle, WA

a blindly pro-gay stance

Dear *GCN*:

It is my opinion that many gays are taking a highly unrealistic view concerning the issue of AIDS-related insurance discrimination, and that their misdirected aims will ultimately worsen our problems.

The insurance industry has its obligations to exhibit some degree of social responsibility, but it also is subject to basic financial realities. No knee-jerk, self-serving and blindly pro-gay stance on the matter is going to make those harsh realities disappear.

The HTLV-3 tests that exist are a relatively reliable, if not perfect, indicator, of whether a person is at significantly increased risk for contracting AIDS. Perfection is not required for legitimate use in insurance decisions. I also think it is ridiculous to suggest that the tests are used to screen for gays. They are used to screen for persons who have been exposed to AIDS virus, and I am sure that insurance companies would not be any more willing to insure an exposed person who is straight.

Instead of fighting HTLV-3 testing, or even exclusion of coverage specifically for AIDS, gays would be wiser to focus on fighting any attempts of insurance companies to determine the sexual preferences of applicants, or use of sexual preference in and of itself as a basis for denying insurance. There are plenty of gays who are abstaining from any sexual activity whatever, and as such have no special risk whatever for AIDS.

AIDS is a totally avoidable disease for any gay person who makes up their mind not to get it, and who has the self-control to do what is necessary to avoid getting it. Gays who cannot read the writing on the wall or who cannot control themselves are going to have to take their own responsibility for the consequences, and not expect the insurance industry to go belly up trying to support them. I would also like to point out that gays would be doing something wrong themselves if they loaded up on life insurance, knowing that they are following a reckless lifestyle, hoping to leave their families rich if they do get AIDS.

If gays gave up ground on HTLV-3 testing, they would stand a much better chance of making progress against open or covert discrimination in the area of sexual preference.

Tim Brothers
Boston, MA

Dear *GCN*:

Your reviewer for *My Two Loves* has totally missed the film’s premise — that it features a bisexual woman who is just discovering the full nature of her sexuality. Yes, the reviewer is right that the movie offers “pasteurized, processed social issues” and insights right “out of Feminism 101.” Frankly, I found it flat and boring. That doesn’t make it a bad film about lesbians. It makes it a bad film about a bisexual woman and the lesbian and straight man with whom she is involved.

The reviewer wants a happy ending in which Gail, the bisexual, decides she’s really a lesbian and stays with Marjorie. This reveals a bisexual point of view. Just as lesbians deserve to hear the end of the myth that they just haven’t met the right man (“What you need is a good f---, baby.”), bisexual women deserve to hear the end of the myth that they haven’t met the right woman yet, or if they have, are too afraid or homophobic to admit it (“Only a woman can give you what you really need.”).

The reality of being bisexual is that only a woman can give you *part* of what you really need, and only a man can give you the other part — and both kinds of experience are special in their own ways. Gail really loves *both* Marjorie and Ben, but they each insist that she choose, that she enact only one side of herself precisely at the time when she is discovering something of what it means to become whole. Showing true self-love, she tells each of them how much they mean to her, but claims her right to the time and space to create her own definition of who she is as a person and, we must assume, as a sexual being.

No, this is *not* a TV movie “about dykes,” no matter how much the reviewer would like to wish bisexuality away. In fact, Rita Mae Brown has written about bisexuality before this, in several of her books. *Six of One* features a sympathetic portrayal of a lesbian (the main character, Celeste) involved in a lifelong, happy relationship with a bisexual woman. In addition, the autobiographic character in this book is bisexual. Rita Mae Brown may be telling us *not to assume* that she or her protagonists are gay. I don’t know. I am content to let her tell her own story in her own time. And I am dedicated to listening to her and others’ works of fiction for exactly what and whom they are about, regardless of what I might wish they were about.

Yours truly,
Lisa Woody
Cambridge, MA

love that laundrette

Dear *GCN*:

After reading your review on “My Beautiful Laundrette” and a letter on the same by James Donald, I decided I would drive down to Boston, if necessary to see the film. Much to my surprise (and delight) it arrived at a Burlington theater this past weekend. Cutting through all the superlatives — let’s just say it’s a damn great film! Not only was it an entirely realistic portrayal of gay life but I found it to be very loving as well. (And weren’t Omar and Johnny a handsome pair!) Why all this excitement about a film? I would like to encourage others to patronize this work (See it at least a couple times) in the hope that we may see more of the same in the future. In the meantime . . . I’ll be at the laundromat.

Sincerely,
David Barber
Burlington, VT

scheduling snafu

Dear *GCN*:

In the April 26 issue of *GCN* the Calendar contained an April 26th listing that Tom Wilson Weinberg would be appearing at the monthly meeting of the Greater Boston Gay Men’s Association. Although we have been discussing his possible appearance, at no time was the April 26th date ever agreed upon. This public relations snafu on our part should in no way reflect upon Mr. Weinberg or *GCN*.

Steering Committee
Greater Boston Gay Men’s Association
Boston, MA

need legal help against racism

Dear *GCN*:

I and my cellmate are presently confined in the hole for an offense that did not happen. We pleaded our case at the Rules Infraction Board saying that the officer was lying, but of course his word outweighed ours. *This is what happens when investigations are done by the same people (organization) making the accusation.*

A sex act may not seem like much to some of the readers, but when you know what effect its being on your record has at parole time, then it becomes a major factor in receiving more time or going home.

We now are locked up for six months with only envelopes, pen and paper.)

If we had someone who knew some law in the free world helping us, we would prove beyond a doubt that this prejudiced officer was lying because he didn’t like me celling with a black prisoner. The day my cellie moved in, this officer (and others, both officers and inmates!) started harassing us. (“Why did you move a nigger in your cell!” etc.) I told him to mind his own business. For weeks he has tried to bust us, doing anything, but that was in vain. Inmates on the block would tell us of his sneaking up on our cell to spy on us.

How might we right this wrong? More important, who is next? It’s a frustrating situation and can only be mended by some help from concerned members of our society. They should not be permitted to get away with racist tyrannizing of prisoners.

I say to the Gay Community out there, a journey of a thousand miles begins with that first step. I’m taking that step but I need someone to walk with me. One small way is to send letters to our Superintendent and demand that we receive an investigation and also a polygraph test (which they have denied us!): Superintendent McMackin, Box 57, Marion OH 43302.

You can also write us and give us your moral support. If you do write please enclose an SASE as we cannot work and get no money in here.

Thank you for hearing me out.
Michael Lee Wood, 152-543
Box 57, Marion OH 43302 &
James Dixon, 183-534
Box 57, Marion OH 43302

GCN welcomes letters to the editor. To minimize delays, they should be TYPED and DOUBLESPOCED, and limited to five typed pages. Carbon copies of letters sent elsewhere are only printed on a space-available basis. Send letters to Community Voices, GCN, 167 Tremont St, Boston, MA 02111.

GayCommunityNews

Cover illustration by Kara Wilson

Gay Community News is produced by a collective dedicated to providing coverage of events and news in the interest of gay and lesbian liberation. The collective consists of a paid staff of eleven, a general membership of volunteers, and a board of directors elected by the membership.

Opinions reflected in “editorials” represent the views of the paid staff collective. Signed letters and columns represent the views and opinions of the authors only. We encourage all readers to send us comments, criticism, and information, and to volunteer and become members.

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Speaking Out

Free At Last? New York City Gets Gay Rights

By David Thorstad

After 15 years of continuing struggle, the New York City Council finally passed a gay rights bill (Intro 2) on March 20, by a vote of 21-14. Two weeks later, on April 2, Mayor Edward Koch signed it into law. The event was an important symbolic victory for the gay movement, though passage will not change much in the day-to-day lives of most citizens, homosexuals included. The City Council, which, like all government in New York, is controlled by the Democratic Party, kept gay lobbyists focused on the bill by refusing annually to pass it ever since it was first introduced by the Gay Activists Alliance in 1971 — the first such bill in history.

Meanwhile, some 50 cities and the state of Wisconsin have already passed gay bills, and one can wager that in every one of them heterosexual supremacy still reigns. Recognition of equal rights under the law for homosexuals is a minimum measure that any civilized society ought to take. And as years go by without any perceptible threat to heterosexual domination, or even any increase in budgetary spending (by and large gay rights costs nothing), the arguments for passage of such largely symbolic measures are likely to be strengthened.

A "victory celebration" in Sheridan Square in Greenwich Village the night the bill passed was quite small (about 1000), unsurprisingly self-congratulatory, but virtually devoid of serious content. Andy Humm, a principal gay engineer of the bill's passage, got carried away and enthusiastically asked the crowd how it felt to be "free and gay" in New York. Many cheered without reflecting on the fact that they are still a long way from freedom. But at least they came — it was a chilly night, which no doubt kept many fickle queens away. Still, for most New York homosexuals the gay bill was a kind of ho-hum sideshow. After all, people are dying of AIDS, and gay rights bills do nothing to increase the budget for AIDS research, and do not make criminal the Reagan Administration's cutbacks in an already inadequate research budget.

Several factors might explain the bill's passage at this point in time. One is weariness by the Permanent Government at the prospect of discrediting the System by its persistent failure to support even symbolic equal rights for all citizens. Clearly, it was an issue that was not going to go away. As columnist Murray Kempton wrote (*Newsday*, March 21), "the managers of the New York City Council finally recognized it as an idea whose time had come."

Ironically, AIDS helped as well: supporters were able to marshal impressive figures demonstrating increases in physical harassment and violence against homosexuals, as well as discrimination in housing, because of bigotry and fear of AIDS. Moreover, it must have become clear to all but the most blind — Orthodox Jewish groups, the Roman Catholic Archdiocese, and scattered fundamentalist Bible-thumpers — that New York City cannot function without its homosexuals. Several institutions and industries — teaching, fashion, restaurants, theatre and the arts, even religions like Roman Catholicism — would go under without them. Naturally, if all homosexuals would come out, gay rights would be achieved overnight. But without even bare-bones legislative protection from discrimination, few can be expected to do so — a kind of Catch-22 peculiar to the gay movement. On the other hand, whether passage of gay rights results in more people coming out is debatable as well. More came out in view of the threats to their survival from Anita Bryant in 1977 than ever came out from mere legal reform.

Perhaps a main reason the bill passed this time around was that it was watered down by proponents to ease its way past perennial objections. Even the *Daily News*, long an opponent of the legislation, supported it this time. Its wording was changed to explicitly state that the bill would not require "affirmative-action quotas based on sexual orientation" (something the gay movement has never demanded!); not override any current exemptions to the human-rights law (such as those applying to concerns with fewer than four employees, religious institutions, owner-occupied dwellings); "endorse any particular behavior or way of life"; or "make lawful any act that violates the penal law of the State of New York." This last was a gratuitous item designed to allay concern that maybe boy-lovers might have rights if the bill passed — a patent absurdity, since the age-of-consent law and the penal code remained untouched by the legislation. Yet the "clarifications" showed how far gay and lesbian proponents were prepared to go to show that they were respectable citizens who were not challenging the heterosexual dictatorship and who deserved its public recognition. Writing in the New York *Times* the day of the vote (March 20), Joseph Berger rephrased the "anti-boylove" clarification to say that the bill "does not make lawful such conduct as child molestation." Apparently the New York ruling class the *Times* speaks for is determined to keep its ridiculously high age of consent (17) at any cost, even if it has to resort to inappropriate scare phrases like "child molestation." At least Mayor Koch used the more accurate phrase "sex with minors" in reference to the section. Still, the gratuitous groveling of the gay movement in inserting such caveats is bound to have predictable effects. One reporter said that gay and lesbian proponents at the hearing on March 20 looked like Yuppies — meaning that a vote for the bill was a vote for the System. The sanitization of gay liberation.

The willingness of gay activists to weaken the phraseology of the bill is also a signal to opponents to further attempt to weaken it. The mayor himself (a long-time backer of the bill) has stated his intention to introduce two amendments to further "clarify" its intentions (to reiterate that affirmative-action quotas will not result, and that public or private schools will not be required to teach the nature of homosexuality!) If the schools were doing their job, they *would* be teaching homosexuality, as well as other sexualities. Government leaders have their heads so far in the sand that their toes are showing.

Why shouldn't all workers and citizens be required to attend at least one day of

workshops and study on homosexuality? If politicians were not so full of hot air, they would know that children — at least by the time they enter kindergarten — ought to be given sex education. Instead of capitulating to anti-sex medievalists in the Catholic Church and Orthodox Jewry, public officials ought to be implementing the complete separation of the church from the state and the schools from the church (a sensible demand, incidentally, that appeared as early as 1904 in the program of the Russian Bolsheviks). The New York Archdiocese's spokesman at the hearing in opposition to the bill was, by the way, obviously gay and a victim of self-hatred — another pathetic irony since the hierarchy of the Catholic Church ranges somewhere between 50 and 99 percent gay.

A representative of the Council for Community Consciousness, who also came off as a closet case, warned that passage of the bill would require landlords to rent to "members of the Man-Boy Lovers Association." Horror of horrors! As if landlords do not already rent to them! Does he think we all live on the street? A study might actually show that boy-lovers make good tenants, who knows?

Most gay activists — including some of the bill's loudest proponents — believe that society *should* accept homosexuality as being on a par with heterosexuality. What's wrong with expecting heterosexuals to do that? The sooner society recognizes the damage of heterosexual domination, the better off everyone will be. Ironically, the only speaker I heard at the hearing openly state that gay people demand full societal acceptance and describe the bill as only a small step toward that was a Yuppie-looking woman from Lesbians in City Government! I guess the radicals of yesterday have all gone back into their closets.

Opponents tried to use the existence of NAMBLA to frighten the Council into scrapping the bill. They repeatedly accused the mayor of "supporting NAMBLA child molesters." To his credit, Koch did not go all the way into their gutter — but the handling of the issue by gay proponents was spineless and far from honorable. Nevertheless, the fact that the bill passed means that man/boy love was not an effective trump card in the hands of the reactionary bigots. It also means that gay upwardly mobile types will not be able to use man/boy love as a scare tactic to fool the public at large into thinking that they are any better.

Opponents threaten to amend the bill into oblivion, and may succeed in introducing weakening provisions. They also threaten to challenge it in court, and, if that fails, to take it to a referendum. But this is mostly bluster for the benefit of their backward constituency; a successful court challenge appears highly unlikely, and referendums in New York City are allowable only as amendments to the City Charter (the gay bill amends the human-rights code). Last year, the court threw out a referendum on a nuclear port in Staten Island on grounds that would seem to require it to do the same with any referendum on the gay bill.

An interesting question that remains to be answered is whether the gay rights legislation will protect gay people from discrimination by other gay people, or a gay priest from discrimination by the Catholic hierarchy. Future cases will no doubt answer this question. If the answer is yes, gays can discriminate against other gays, it will demonstrate the extreme limitations of such legislation. If the answer is no, the bill will have performed a service beyond those envisaged by its proponents.

New York's Horatio Alger Chapter of NAMBLA is prepared to challenge gay-on-gay discrimination under the bill's provisions if its renewed request for meeting space at the city's Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center is denied (as it was last year). Stay tuned.

David Thorstad is a New York City activist who has worked hard for passage of the gay and lesbian rights bill during past years.

"Speaking Out" is part of our continuing effort to provide a true forum of opinion for the community. We encourage you to send your ideas, feelings, and comments to us and we encourage you to respond to any ideas expressed in this space. Submissions to "Speaking Out" should be TYPED and DOUBLE SPACED, and, if possible, held to under 5 pages in length. The GCN staff collective reserves the right to limit length and number of signatures in "Speaking Out." The opinions expressed in "Speaking Out" do not necessarily reflect the views of the newspaper, the staff, or the advertisers. Write c/o Speaking Out, GCN, 167 Tremont St., 5th Fl., Boston, MA 02111.

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Editor's Clarification

It is *GCN's* letters policy not to run attacks against individuals. In the final paragraph of a recent letter concerning Jeanne Bergman and Jackie Urla's Speaking Out on religion and anthropology, the letter writer crossed the line from criticizing Bergman and Urla's ideas into equating Bergman's personal life with her position. In retrospect, this paragraph was inappropriate and should not have been printed. We apologize to Ms. Bergman.

ON LINE AND ACCESSIBLE!

GCN has a new TTY/TDD installed and ready for use. We appreciate the gift from "one of our own" and feel we can better serve our readership by broadening our accessibility. We welcome calls from the deaf and hearing-impaired community on our TTY/TDD line: (617) 426-0332. Spread the word!

GCN Job Opening

Promotions/Classified Advertising Coordinator (available ASAP): Use direct mail marketing, exchange ads, renewal campaigns and other strategies to increase subscription/newsstand sales. Also process and lay out weekly classified ads. **Qualifications:** Strong writing, administrative, creative and organizational skills. Previous promotions experience helpful.

All GCN positions required a commitment to gay/lesbian liberation, feminism, anti-racist/anti-classist politics, and the collective decision-making process. **Salary/Benefits:** All positions pay \$160/wk + fully paid health/life insurance, sick leave, and four weeks' paid vacation. GCN offers staff members responsibility for their own jobs with some flexibility and ample room for innovation.

To apply, please send resume/cover letter ASAP to: Search Committee, 167 Tremont St., #5, Boston, MA 02111. Gay men/lesbians of color particularly encouraged to apply.

Lesbians & Kids: Community We Create

By Ellen Herman

According to the April '86 issue of *Boston Magazine*, corporate moms are stepping off the fast track in droves to rediscover the joys of hearth and home. It seems that after being told we could make it in a man's world, still look gorgeous after a 12-hour day, and be a super-woman/mother/lover/friend, there are a few hard truths about "having it all" after all.

In the midst of such suffocating nonsense, the "Lesbians and Children" conference that took place in Boston at Simmons College on May 3 felt like an antidote to a dose of cultural poison. The day-long event, subtitled "The Community We Create," was planned by the Lesbians Choosing Children Network and offered an incredible 47 workshops, eight films, child care, and lunch to over 400 women and children who attended. Workshop topics ranged from "Alternative Insemination" to "Male Role Models" to "Coming Out to Our Kids." One woman, not a parent, told me that she was treating the event as a "sobriety test," to acquaint herself with the issues; many mothers were there to share their experiences and find validation; still others came looking for specific information and resources.

During the past couple of years, the "lesbian baby boom," the phenomenon of choosing to become parents *after coming out*, has become visible, thanks to the contributions of lesbian-feminist documentary films like *Choosing Children* and books like *Considering Parenthood*. This conference was another step in affirming a kind of gay parenting previously considered impossible or taboo, by us as well as the straight society.

The tone of the conference was set early on in the day. During

brief opening remarks, conference organizers spoke of their hope that the event would help lesbians to share feelings, break individual isolation, and form useful networks. In an atmosphere full of anticipation and enthusiasm, everyone seemed aware of the significance of having such a community-wide discussion. At the same time, there was a great deal of concern expressed for the safety and privacy of every woman there. Only members of the feminist and gay press had been invited to cover the conference.

The first workshop I attended, called "Making the Decision," was attended by over 50 women. After the facilitator described how she and her lover had decided to become parents, participants asked questions and offered comments. Since the women attending were at many different stages of "making the decision" themselves, the issues that came up were numerous and complicated. First, what are the reasons to have children? There were questions about whether wanting children was selfish because it would unfairly saddle children with a struggle they had not asked for. On the other hand, was deciding not to have children selfish? (To refuse motherhood is certainly the choice traditionally considered selfish for women.) How does homophobia affect our feelings?

Many women spoke about choosing a method of childbearing. Do I want to be a biological or non-biological parent? In the case of biological parenting, do I want to know the donor or not? If I choose not to give birth, how will I relate to an adoption agency or placement workers? (With Massachusetts' year-old, anti-gay foster care policy, child-rearing options for lesbians and gay men are dwindling fast.) Will I be a

single parent, part of a couple, or one of a group of co-parents? How will I "explain" to the child's schoolteachers?

Since men remain a necessary part of having children, there are no cases of accidental motherhood in our community. *Lesbians must plan to become parents*. While this reality means that the children of lesbians are always children who are wanted, it also places an incredible strain on the parenting decision. As one woman noted, "being mental" about the decision is almost inevitable. In addition to coping with biology, lesbians must face up to the likelihood of continuing political attacks on the "fitness" of gay parents.

A workshop on "Integrating Children and Their Mothers into the Lesbian Community" was facilitated by two lesbians, each of whom had chosen to bear a child

within the past two years. They both talked about the dramatic changes in their lives — the impact their children had on personal mobility, eating habits and adult friendships. The workshop stressed creating new resources (more and better child care, for example) and using old institutions to serve new purposes (the Women's Center as a place for a children's story-telling group). How will we, as a community, be responsible for supporting all women's parenting choices and what do we have to offer children?

The workshop also touched on more controversial topics. In the lesbian community, boy children have long been an issue as part of the larger question of separatism. Women's cultural events, like music festivals and dances, have been focal points of intense disagreement over how, and even

whether, to integrate boys into women's "spaces."

While I found few women advocating separatism of any kind and many speaking emotionally against it, the conference itself was closed to men. Conference organizers admitted that the decision had been a difficult one, even a logical inconsistency. Beth Shapiro of the Conference Planning Committee noted that having children makes our community "more a part of the larger world." On the other hand, Paula Vincent, another member of the Conference Planning Committee, stressed that a women-only event helped make the conference feel safe and comfortable, a high priority for the organizers.

In future dialogues, men must be included. Many lesbians choosing children are doing so with the



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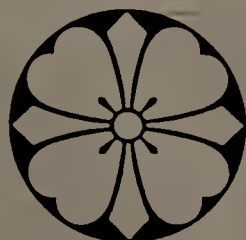
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AIDS Cases

Continued from page 1

People with AIDS by City of Residence

	Cases	(%)
New York, NY	6228	(31)
San Francisco, CA	2123	(11)
Miami, FL	604	(3)
Newark, NJ	504	(3)
Los Angeles, CA	1719	(9)
Elsewhere	8910	(44)
Total, United States	20,088	(100)

could appear "prejudicial to gay men," and that the hierarchy of groups was being changed "to more accurately reflect the spread of the disease." The source would not reveal how or when the change would happen.

"People with AIDS by City of Residence" breaks down the statistics by metropolitan area, and not the city proper.

"People with AIDS by Race/Ethnicity" relies on the person making the report to categorize the person by race; there are no standardized criteria. The CDC refuses to release statistics on Asians and Native Americans, claiming that to do so would compromise the confidentiality of people with AIDS, given the small numbers involved.

—filed from Boston

People with AIDS by Race/Ethnicity

	Adult/Adolescent		Pediatric		Total	
	Cases	(%)	Cases	(%)	Cases	(%)
White	11,901	(60)	51	(18)	11,952	(59)
Black	4884	(25)	168	(60)	5052	(25)
Latino	2796	(14)	60	(21)	2856	(14)
Other	115	(1)	0	(0)	115	(1)
No Record	111	(1)	2	(1)	113	(1)
Total	19,807	(100)	281	(100)	20,088	(100)

People with AIDS by Disease

	Cases	(%)	Deaths	(% Dead)
Both KS and PCP	1092	(5)	732	(67)
KS without PCP	3515	(17)	1487	(42)
PCP without KS	11,646	(58)	6389	(55)
OI without KS or PCP	3835	(19)	2192	(57)
Total	20,088	(100)	10,800	(54)

KS—Kaposi's Sarcoma

PCP—Pneumocystis Carinii Pneumonia

OI—Opportunistic Infection

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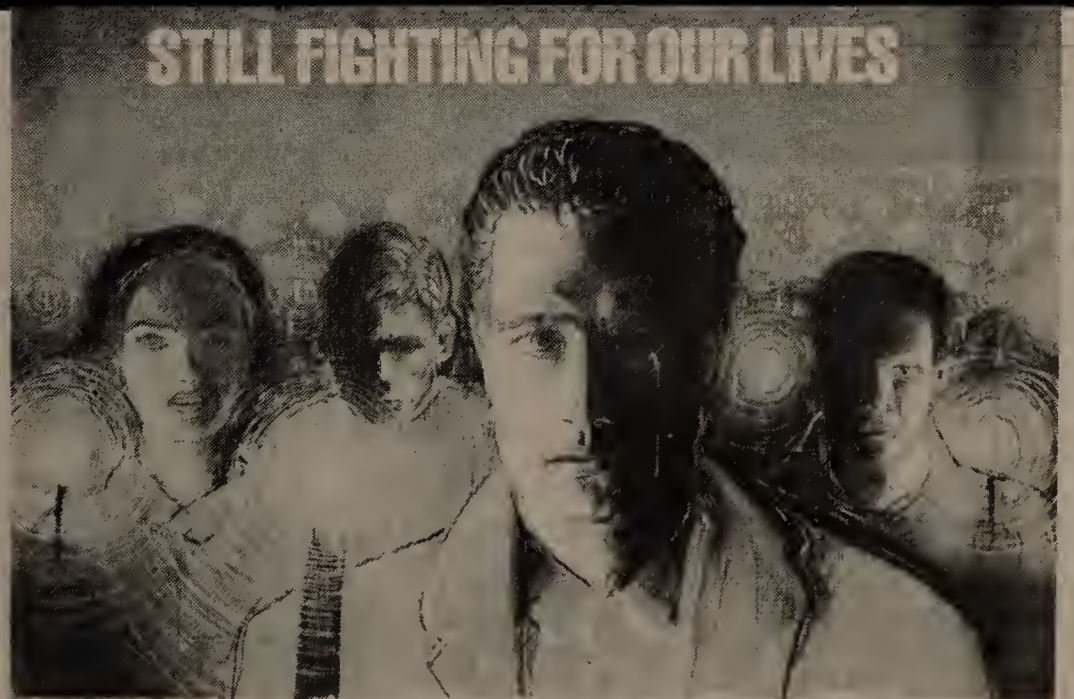
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Janice Irvine



Therapist Margie Nichols: Getting the Sex We Want

By Janice Irvine

Historically, queers have been on precarious footing within the field of sexology. Since the days of Magnus Hirschfeld, those staid sexual scientists have been discomfited by our presence in their midst, viewing us simply as proselytizers for our sexual orientation. Ever-sensitive that charges of homophobia would tarnish their liberal images, however, modern sexologists have attempted an even-handed approach to homosexuality. The result, particularly in the 1970s, was countless conference papers where *THEY* presented research about US. Many gay sex researchers stayed in the closet.

Recently, the picture is brighter. The AIDS epidemic has provided the impetus for openly gay researchers to present their work on the health crisis. In addition, a group of openly lesbian and gay social scientists seem intent on staking out gay turf within sexology. With presentations on topics such as AIDS, gay male relationships and lesbian sexuality, sexology conferences have become a much less lonely experience for queers.

At a recent conference of the Society for the Scientific Study of Sex, I spoke to Margie Nichols, a lesbian who is a psychologist and a certified sex therapist. Nichols has written a number of articles on lesbian sexuality and bisexuality for professional journals. She has an article on lesbian sex radicals that is forthcoming in *Conditions* magazine this August. Nichols is the executive director of both the Institute for Personal Growth, a private feminist psychotherapy center, and the Hyacinth Foundation, a non-profit organization for sexuality counseling, research and education. Hyacinth also provides AIDS support work in New Jersey.

Janice Irvine: Could you talk about your background and how you began doing work in the area of lesbian sexuality?

Margie Nichols: Sure. Other than liking sex a lot, I'm trying to think if I had any reason other than that to get involved with lesbian sexuality. I'd been doing sex therapy with lesbians and lesbian couples for a number of years, and the issues that leapt out at me were lesbian sexual dysfunction and inhibited sexual desire.

I went through a post-doctoral program in sex therapy, so that really crystallized things for me. I was the first person who had gone through that program openly gay and it made me start thinking about lesbian sexuality by contrast. Everything I was taught was about heterosexual sex and I would listen and think, "But that's not relevant to lesbians."

Jl: So your experience with the lesbians you were seeing in therapy really led you into this more academic work?

MN: Right. I was just seeing inhibited sexual desire and low frequency sex in lesbian couples so often that it was striking. Then I began to think about why this was happening. I come out of a more sociological, political background, so I always ask, "Why is this going on? Why now?" And, frankly, my own sexuality has never really fit within politically correct norms. I have a motto about psychological theories which is, if the theory makes me feel bad about myself, it's no good. If it makes me feel good about myself, it's worth investigating.

Jl: Did you find that you could use the techniques you were taught or that you had to modify them because there were different dynamics between lesbians?

MN: Some of the techniques are fairly universal, but there are a few ways I've modified them. None of the theories or techniques really address fusion or over-intimacy as a reason for inhibited sexual desire or low frequency sex. That's really something that just isn't discussed in the literature, although I don't think it's unique to lesbian couples. I also wind up doing more work around incest and sexual abuse than you find in the mainstream literature about heterosexuals. I don't think it's because lesbians have been abused more, but maybe because it's two women you're dealing with, the odds of finding at least one partner in the couple that suffered some sexual assault is higher.

The other reason that I've evolved differently than mainstream sex therapists is because of my exposure to gay culture. I'm doing a paper now on sexual desire problems in lesbians, and one of the examples I'm using is of a woman who inhibited her desire because she had this fear that if she got really excited she'd piss. The way that I dealt with it was to really encourage her to piss and to incorporate piss into her sexual routine.

That's something that comes directly from the influence, first of gay men and then from lesbian sex radicals. I've never read anything remotely like that in the mainstream literature. Frankly, the field of heterosexual sex therapy is very narrow compared to what gay men know about sex.

Jl: Much of your early work focused on fusion and inhibitions of sexual desire. At the conference this afternoon, you said that you had been criticized for that emphasis so you discussed lesbian sex radicals. What's your sense of the size of both groups? On the one hand, you could say that you see more inhibited sexual desire because you work with a client population. On the other hand, given what we know about two women in a couple, that may be more typical.

MN: I think it's more typical. Certainly I was seeing an ex-

treme population because it was clients, but I think the mores around relationships in the lesbian community are still mores that tend to foster fusion. I don't think it's just a few clinical cases. I'll give you an example. A big issue for a couple that I'm working with now is that they're about to move in together and one of the women wants to have her own bedroom. That's a **BIG DEAL!** For the other woman, this flies in the face of the definition of what a couple is supposed to be. That, I think, is peculiarly lesbian.

Jl: But that derives from a heterosexual marriage norm.

MN: Absolutely. The thing is though, you can have the intimacy trappings in a heterosexual marriage and the likelihood of getting fusion is pretty low. You're dealing with one partner with whom you've got to use a sledge hammer to be intimate at all. But I agree with you that the heterosexual ideal of romance and marriage is what all young girls are brought up on — "We'll fall in love, we'll have all the same interests and we'll be together all the time in this little closed world." It's a heterosexual ideal that, ironically, finds its fulfillment in the lesbian couple.

I talk a lot about the negative aspects of that, but it also should be recognized that there is, among a lot of lesbian couples, an incredible amount of intimacy that is not found as frequently among other kinds of couples. What I keep saying is that lesbian couples do intimacy very well and gay male couples do autonomy very well, and somehow if we can find a way to teach people how to be intimate and autonomous at the same time, that would be nice.

Jl: Do you think that's possible?

MN: Absolutely. Part of the problem is the concept of constant intimacy. It's the idea that you should be intimate every day. In our conceptualization of couples, maybe we could move to thinking about relationships where people spend lots of time off doing their independent things and when they come together they can be very, very intimate. But they don't have this assumption that there are going to be huge numbers of hours in the week that they're going to be intimate. That's more realistic.

Jl: On the other hand, many of us are out living our activist lives and our problem is finding time in our schedules to come together. It's hard to be out in the world with a broader focus and then turn around and be very, very focused and intimate really fast when you only have a night in the middle of the week and you have to wake up early the next morning and leave.

MN: I agree that's hard, but even so, it's still a more



realistic goal than thinking you're going to do everything together and share all your interests.

The other problem that lesbians face is the idea that intimacy means sameness. The relationship is threatened if you have radically different views about things. If your definition of intimacy is sameness, then the only way to achieve it is to shut off any areas that are different. You shut them off from yourself, and don't articulate them in the relationship because it's too painful to acknowledge that there might be areas in which you're very different from a lover. Ultimately you're left with what might look like intimacy but is really sterility because there's nothing happening and no growth in the relationship. It's a struggle in all relationships — how do you keep it alive and changing and growing?

JJ: *Difference is so often perceived as a threat. Do you have any ways of working with people in order to neutralize that belief or to engender a sense that difference can be exciting?*

MN: I challenge what is often a knee-jerk reflex that difference is bad. Particularly in the last few years, when I do couples counseling, I am not necessarily trying to get people to resolve conflict in the sense that "Okay, we have two different points of view, let's compromise," but more to accept areas of conflict. There are always going to be areas where you're different, so work around it. You don't have this ideal that somehow if you batter this issue around enough, you'll both come to the same point of view.

That's an area in which, ironically, heterosexual relationships do better than lesbian relationships. Frequently there are so many differences between men and women due to socialization that there's more of an understanding that you're not possibly going to get these two people to think the same way or feel the same way. So there's more tolerance and latitude if only for practical reasons. Part of what happens with lesbians is there's the vision of the twin — we're women so we're going to be twins floating into the sunset together — It just doesn't work.

These days I'm tending to conceptualize the reasons for sexual desire problems a little differently. I see some of the problems as women not knowing what they like sexually and having boring and routine sexual scripts, because they've never really explored what they like sexually. Again, I feel very informed by gay male sexuality in this. Many gay men, particularly gay male urban clones can tell you with incredible specificity what they like sexually, how they like to be touched, in exactly what way, for how long, and on what body part. The average woman, either gay, straight or bisexual, has never even thought in those terms. So I find that a lot of the sex therapy I'm doing now is to try to get women to articulate and find their desire more.

JJ: *So it seems that part of the solution is education since women often don't know the options, but part of it would be really working with the socialized aversion — that horror of "Oh my God, I can't do that!"*

So how do you work with that?

MN: It's partly that I just tend to model those kinds of attitudes. In fact, that woman I told you about earlier, who I got to piss in bed with her lover. Well, the way I got her to do that was through a bargaining sort of thing. Her lover was saying, "Well, I don't know how I feel about this," so I said to the lover, "What's your fantasy?" She had a fan-

tasy about using a dildo. So I said "Okay, great. She'll piss and you use a dildo."

I think we have lots of those kinds of desires and fantasies that we can't articulate to our lovers or ourselves. I try to model in therapy that anything you like is fine, but also that your partner doesn't have to like it. The mistaken ethic is that sexual freedom means we must do everything. We have a rigid view that the alternatives are either we can't like anything or we must like and do everything. This gives some clue about why we repress some of our sexual desires.

JJ: *I think sometimes we don't try things because we're afraid if we like something, we'll be consumed by it.*

MN: Yes, that's a very common fear for women. And I'll tell you something interesting. There's a grain of truth in it. I see sexual addiction, although I hate the term, on a continuum with inhibited sexual desire on the other end. One could conceptualize inhibited sexual desire as a way of guarding against unpleasant desires and a way of controlling one's impulses. When I'm working with women who seem to have the most inhibited sexual desire, I always try to go for the kink there. For a lot of women with really inhibited desire, it's a defense mechanism to guard against what is actually a wild sexuality — wild in the sense of really being turned on to lots of unusual things. I see it as positive, although obviously these women don't see it that way. So I agree with you that many women think that the only way to guard against being hypersexual is to be less sexual.

JJ: *That, plus a denial of pleasure. We allow ourselves to have only so much; we can't have it all.*

MN: That's right. And a lot of it is also because the desires are seen as making us whores and sluts. It's the same old stuff. Some of it is because, for some lesbians, the desires might be heterosexual. We're afraid we're going to be turned on to things we think we shouldn't be turned on to, whether it's men, s/m sex or whatever.

JJ: *I'm intrigued by the nature of desire. What is sexual attraction for each of us and how does it emerge in the particular forms that it does? I'm curious about how we might begin to answer those questions.*

MN: Well, that's part of why I'm interested in lesbian sex radicals. Being in same-sex relationships has really freed women from a lot of power-based conflicts and allowed us to play around with a lot of stuff.

Partly I find s/m interesting because I find it hot myself, but the other reason is that s/m seems like such a complex manifestation of sexuality. What I think happens in some of the fringe areas of sexuality like s/m is that people become conscious of strands of their sexuality that are present for everybody but just don't ever become conscious. It gets played out in more vivid forms. I'm also convinced that a lot of sexual boredom is because you get to a point where the only way to keep sex going would be to uncover more of the unconscious, sexually repressed stuff that's in there and it's too threatening for most people.

JJ: *What is your interpretation both of butch/femme roles and of heterosexual experiences and fantasies by lesbians? What does it mean for a lesbian identity and a lesbian community?*

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MN: I think that feminist analysis of sexuality that is purely gender based is too narrow. Gender and gender relations may give us the content of sexual fantasies and sexual images, for example, but not the structure and function. So, for example, male/female relationships determine some of the content of our images, but so do mother/child or teacher/student. I feel like you get bogged down if you try to interpret it all as gender differences.

In this culture butch/femme is eroticized in terms of male/female. But it's possible to take the essence of butch/femme and transform it into a female/female relationship. It's the contrast that you find erotic. The gender is not so relevant. To say that, "This really means that you're heterosexual" is a simplistic analysis. Who knows how we eroticize images?

JJ: *The possibilities are really intriguing but the ways that variations are viewed are often so monolithic or rigid. I don't think it's surprising that any of us have little flashes of wondering what a certain sexual practice means.*

MN: Well it's scary. We are taught to think that it should all fall into neatly compartmentalized boxes, so if we really like the combination of breasts and a penis, we wonder what it means.

Gender, sexuality and sexual object choice is all supposed to fit together, but it doesn't. We need to free ourselves from some of the prescriptions and imagine what it means to mix and match biological characteristics and psychological characteristics. Part of why we get a jolt is because of the stereotypes about lesbians. There's the myth that all lesbians need is a good fuck. So to discover that imagery inside yourself is a little scary.

JJ: *Also, in some historical way, certain sexual behaviors get coded into a sexual identity. Certain practices become our identity, so for lesbians, you only do certain things.*

MN: You're absolutely right.

JJ: *So has your thinking about lesbian sexuality changed in the last few years?*

MN: Even two years ago I had a lot of difficulty with the lesbian sex radicals. I took the position that this is fine because it's sexual expansion. But there was also a lot I didn't want to look at, so I've been learning a lot. A real critical thing for me is moving beyond feminist analysis of sexuality because, although it's fruitful and productive in lots of ways, it's also limiting.

JJ: *You've come out publicly now as being bisexual. Could you talk about what that means to you and what that process was?*

MN: I really never denied my heterosexual desires. I had early gay experiences, then shut them off and was very heterosexually active. I didn't get involved with women again until I was in my twenties.

When I look at my own evolution — why I identified myself as a lesbian and then what changed so that I now identify myself as bisexual — I realize that two things happened. One was that my relationships with men were just so bad that sex with men became de-eroticized. I always described myself as someone who was bisexual from the standpoint of erotic attraction but involved with women because the relationships were better. Five years ago if you had said to me, "You know someday you're going to have sex with men again," I would have laughed at you.

What changed for me was having a baby. I said to myself, "If you're going to be a responsible parent, you're going to have to deal with men again." I just shut them out and didn't deal with the male half of the human race. I decided that I could not do that anymore if I was going to raise a son. I felt I had to learn to see men as human beings. What happened when I did that is that I became attracted to them again. I then went through a fairly painful evolution of coming out to myself.

It was easy for me to come out as a lesbian — the identity was attractive and there was a wonderful community. But there was no bisexual community in 1974, and you just could not come out as a bisexual then. There really isn't one now and I don't think there should be a bisexual

community that's separate from the gay community. I would like to see the gay community redefine itself as "not straight."

JJ: *Do you see any potential for the development of freer norms for sexual exploration within the lesbian community?*

MN: Yes, absolutely. I see the lesbian sex radicals as a vanguard extreme group of women. I don't think the majority of lesbians are going to get into intricately played out s/m scenes, but I think there will be a proliferation of techniques and possibilities. And I think women will become more open about what they're already doing. It'll be really interesting to see how women take some of these sexual behaviors that have been traditionally male and bring a peculiarly female perspective to them.

Wheaton Lesbians

Continued from page 1

an informal counseling service of students and staff who are available to deal with issues of sexual identity and harassment. And, according to Susan, verbal harassment of lesbians has virtually stopped.

The phone calls, however, appear not to have ceased completely.

ly. Mary said that while no other student's parents have received a call since December, she believes her father was phoned in late March. On a recent visit home he became violent toward her and "told me he didn't want to be bothered at home and at work by people he didn't know, concern-

ing my activities at school."

Mary's father first received a call in October of 1985. He responded by beating his daughter until she was able to convince him she was not a lesbian. Mary said she does not expect the calls to halt completely since the caller "obviously doesn't have any guilt and is beyond educating." She instead hopes to educate other students about the prevalence and consequences of homophobia: "People need to know that some of us have been beaten and still the caller phones again."

Mary noted that the work of the

Alliance, the task force and the consultants have affected straight women as well as lesbians. "A lot of women are questioning their sexuality and coming to meetings for the first time. Three or four people have come up to me in the last month with questions, some of whom aren't even gay." Many of the straight women on campus "are at least looking at themselves as women for the first time, and as sexual human beings."

The students are impressed by the support they have received from Dean Janus, who was responsible for adding the Lesbian

Alliance to the list of student groups, for hiring Nemeyer and Sass, and for initiating the task force on homophobia. However, since Janus is leaving the college and the consultants recently completed their contract, students expressed some concern that the task force's programs and the anti-homophobic atmosphere at Wheaton may not last. The task force members plan to meet indefinitely, Mary says, "to ensure that students in the future don't have to start all over again."



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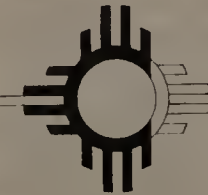
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Northampton Pride

(See story, page 1.)



Tom Concannon

Four peacekeepers gather before the march, Northampton, May 3.

LIFE AT THE CLOSET DOOR



Tom Concannon

Lesbian and Gay Freedom Trail Band heading up the march, Northampton, May 3.

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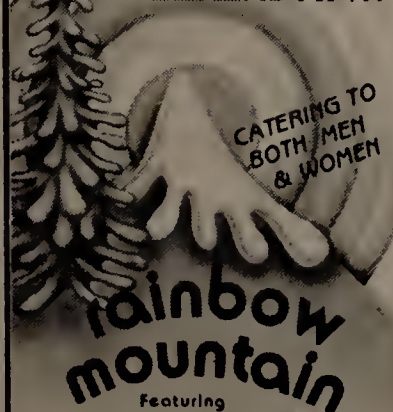
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Lesbians & Children:

Continued from page 6

cooperation of gay men as sperm donors and/or co-parents. The AIDS crisis has forced gay men to examine the role of sexuality and its relationship to life itself. These and other issues simply deepen the bonds between men and women in the gay community. Men are part of lesbian families, well beyond the mechanics of "how-to."

Another division that generated tension and dialogue throughout the day was between women with (usually older) children from previous heterosexual relationships and women who have had children since coming out. One mother with two boys, ages 9 and 11, talked angrily about the new "lavender moms." She felt that the lesbian community had, until recently, given only lip service to "integration," leaving her and many other lesbians who have been mothers for years with a series of bad memories: women asking her children to get off the dance floor at women's dances; friends unwilling to spend time with her while her children were around. For her, it felt less than genuine that, in 1986, lesbian

motherhood magically appears as an important "community issue." It is important to note that one conference, as significant as it may have been, does not prove our community's commitment to a variety of parenting choices. Time and experience will be the only tests for whether we will really support lesbian mothers parenting infants or 18-year-olds.

The "Co-Parenting" workshop surfaced questions about sharing parenting non-traditionally. In lesbian couples, the non-biological co-parent often has concerns about how she is perceived in a culture where her status is a non-status. What is co-parenting like when it is not done in the context of lover relationship, or when it is but the lovers do not live together? What about co-parenting with a child's father or another man or men? Although a large majority of women seemed to be thinking about parenting from the vantage point of monogamous, long-term lover relationships, it was inspiring to hear from women who are relating to children in many different ways. Although the con-

ference did not present itself as a reproductive rights event, it was just that. Abortion rights, birth control, and sex education activists have been working hard just to avoid setbacks. As far as I am concerned, lesbians and gay men are presenting the reproductive rights movement with one of the most profound and exciting challenges in years — the question of reproductive *opportunity*. If straight activists have not exactly laid out a red carpet for gay parents and parents-to-be, well, that is not new to us. I was disappointed that this positive feminist significance went unnoticed, or at least unstated, throughout the day, especially since the Massachusetts legislature had, just three days before, overwhelmingly voted to place on the November ballot a proposed constitutional amendment allowing the state to regulate, and ban, abortions. Every woman and man thinking about any kind of reproductive choice has a personal stake in the outcome of that struggle.

I often heard women describe being criticized politically for



Susan Fleischmann

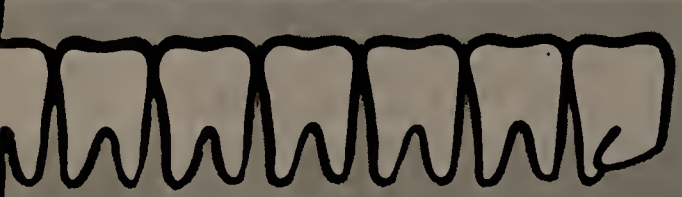
making the choice to become parents. Accusing mothers of "draining political energy" consigns them to marginality and then condemns them for being marginal. It also fails to recognize the many lesbian mothers who have been politically active for years, often with very little help from the lesbian community.

On the other hand, wrapping ourselves in the slogan that "the personal is political" is not sufficient either. The intention of the conference was to address women's personal experiences and feelings, and it was successful at doing exactly that. We have yet, as a community, to really address many of the political issues involved. For example, why is the "lesbian baby boom" happening now? Ticking biological clocks may explain some of it; women attending the conference tended to be around 30 and older. Also, the visibility of some lesbians choosing children may be crucial in helping others make similar decisions. But claiming that every choice a lesbian makes is, by virtue of her sexual identity, a political statement, is an excuse.

Throughout the day, I heard women expressing the idea that

lesbians, as a group, ought to have kids because we'll make good parents and produce caring children. For some, the political battleground has simply changed locations. Instead of raising public consciousness on the streets, we'll be doing it in pediatricians' offices and day care centers. But why be so quick to make a trade? Gay liberation and feminism belong everywhere. True, mothers are in a position to take a leading role in educating children, but we are all responsible for seeing that today's young people do not become the next generation of homophobes. And lesbians must be supported in continuing the political work they have been doing, even after they choose to have children in their lives.

We are, like it or not, still living in the culture of *Boston Magazine*. While we are busy rejecting the homophobic idea that lesbians (and gay men) are not deserving of children, sexism is still dictating that all women must have them or be forever judged incomplete. Choosing children is not about "growing up and facing facts." Any illusions that children will increase gay acceptability (because even hostile heterosexuals can supposedly identify with the desire to have children) should be shelved right now; gay parents have been fighting custody battles for too long to believe that. Our families do not and will not qualify for approval in a society without reproductive freedom. Our community has a proud history of speaking out about sex, love, and what family really means. We're not going to stop now.



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ROOMMATE WANTED

26 year old straight woman seeks 1 or more gay male roommates with apartment to share. Call Susan after 6:00. 322-5052. (43)

Like living alone but can't afford it? Skg L28+ for 2 bdr apt. Share in summer (\$250) Yours all wk in school yr (\$380 +) No smkg, drugs, pets. 926-3474. (41)

BEACON HILL LESBIAN

seeks a lesbian roommate to share two-bedroom apt. Small but efficient, cozy, convenient and inexp. I am responsible, independent, and peaceful and seek similar lesbian. No pets/ cigs/drugs and min alc, please. Avail. June 1, cost \$225/ month inc. ht. & \$15 more for util. Phone extra. Leave message at 723-7473. (48)

2 L's and 8 year old girl have house to share w/2 other L's. One pet ok. Beautiful, wooded are, big roomy house, wood stove, semi-pvt bath. \$300 including heat and electricity. Food, phone separate, no heavy party'ers. Access to Rt 20, 128 & Mass Pike. Call 1-443-0417 after 7:30 pm. (41)

PORTER SQ/ SOMERVILLE

Woman 32, seeks F to share LG 2bdrm apt. New Kitch, bright w/vIEWS & porch. Be responsible & mature. \$325. Avail 6/1 or so. 628-3383/497-5178. (42)

DAVIS SQUARE

LF wanted to share friendly supportive home w/Asian and Jewish LFs. If you are 25+, financially stable, petless, smokeless, & have a sense of humor, call 776-8405 until 11 pm. Avail now. Pref. long term but sublet poss. \$220 +. (43)

2 LF looking for responsible non-smoking 3rd. 23+ to share beaut. sunny Som. apt. w/washer, fireplace, porch, woodwork. Near Orange line + busses. \$233 +. Call 628-0851. (43)

L seeks same to share sunny 2 Bdr apt in Watertown. Hdwd flrs, working tpic, quiet street, \$350 plus util. Call 923-1609. No smoking. (43)

L 31 sks L 28+ resp, mature to share clean, spacious JP apt. Have kitten, no more pets. \$300+ nr monument & T. Warm, independent hshld. Nikki. 522-0097. Leave message. Avail immediately. (45)

IN THE COUNTRY

Single L seeks same to share farmhouse with me & part-time daughter age 6. No smokers. \$275 includes util. wood heat, yard, garden. Some barter possible. 50 mi west of Boston: commute to southern NH, 495, Lowell, Worcester, western MA. 386-7737. (43)

2 LFs seek 3rd to join our cozy Somerville home. Nr Davis Sq. Backyard w/garden. Semicoop, semiveg, no pets, or cigs. Rent \$200 + utils. 625-7435. (43)

AVAILBE JUNE 1 OR SOONER

LF 34 sks resp LF rmmtte for Somerville apt, 2 br, 2 porch, 2nd fl, \$285 incl heat, hot water + gas. 10 min walk to Davis Sq. I have a dog, no more pets. Call 625-1039. Leave message. (43)

ROOMY HOUSE IN SOMERVILLE

1 man 1 woman need 1 more to share hse. Dauna wood flrs, quiet area nr Redline and busses. No pets, no smoker only. Immed opening, \$350/mo. Call 623-7258. 5-10 pm. (43)

3 LF seek 4th for 4 Bdrm in Cambridge. Friendly, independent, drug-alcohol-pet-free home. No smokers. \$250 & util & last month. Call 864-5304. (43)

APT. SOMERVILLE

LF seeking resp LF to share summy 2 br 2nd fl apt in Som. \$200 + util. Call 628-6917. Eve. No drugs, so smokes. Avail immed. (45)

LF, prof., 32 seeks roommate to share safe, nice 5rm apt. w/porch & small yard in 2-fam house. Watertown near Oakley SQ. Near T. Avail June 1. Rent \$350 + utilities. Call 924-5967. (44)

LF seeks independent LF roommate for pondsie J.P. apt. \$200 +. Available immediately. No drugs or alcohol in the house, please. Julie 522-2626. (43)

LF wanted for coop house in Allston. 4 LF, 2 cats, Beaut. \$170 +. No smokers. close to T and bus. 782-0599. (43)

2 GF for independent 4 br Cambridge apt, 6/1. Drug alcohol free, no smokers. \$250 + util & last mo. Call 864-5304 or 354-7437. (43)

2 LF looking for responsible, non-smoking 3rd. 23+ to share beaut, sunny Som apt w/washer, fireplace, porch, woodwork. Near Orange line & buses. \$233 +. Call 628-0851. (43)

WHY NOT DORCHESTER!?

Come and join Dorchester's growing community of Lesbians & Gay men. We are a sometimes wild, but very supportive household of 3 LFs, 28+, looking for a 4th to live in a beautiful 9 room victorian in Uphams Corner. \$300/mo includes EVERYTHING. Call us, we'll chat. Julie, Karen or Dianne. 288-1286. (43)

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2 GM seek 1 person, M or F to rent 2 rooms in Central Sq apt. You pay: \$342 + last mo sec, util. Avail July 1. 497-6323. (44)

SPECIAL ROOMMATE SITUATION

2 JLFs seek drug-alcohol-sm-free roommate for summer (with possible extension. Your own room, (partially furn.) Conv to T. W/d, spacious, sunny apt in Medford, safe area. \$250 includes all except food, phone. We welcome humor, music makers & relative sanity. We have 1 cat. No more, please. (44)

HOUSING WANTED

LF mid 30's prof, looking for apt/house to share.Chem free smoke ok. Cathleen. (606) 266-9698 or (606) 252-5487. (43)

AVAILABLE FOR HOUSESITTING

Are you going on vacation in June, July, or August? Wouldn't you feel safer if someone were living in your home while you were away? Responsible LF (GCN worker) wants to housesit. Could be a mutually beneficial arrangement. Box 76. (43)

Two LFs seek 2-bdrm apt. in Cambridge/Sville area. Between us, can pay up to \$600/mo, including everything. We are friendly, charming and reliable. Please call Stephanie or Vanessa at (617) 776-9252 (evenings) or Stephanie at (617) 426-4469 (days). (44)

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GM seeks housing for June 1. Looking for semi-collective situation in JP. Am open to other sits. in other areas. Can pay up to \$225/mo. Call Marcos at 426-4469 (days). (40)

APARTMENTS

SOMERVILLE/MED LINE

Beaut sunny 3 or 4 br 2nd fl apt nr T & Tufts. Mod kit & bath. w & D hkups, 2 prchs, yrd. Nice neighborhood. Cats ok. Les owned house. Avail June 1 or July 1. \$800 + util. 396-5591. Lv mess. (44)

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Libra Lesbian, activist, jailhouse lawyer currently under 'house arrest' for anti-administration politics and general attitude, seeks correspondence and input from others in struggle. Preparing class action for confiscation of personal property. Write Cookie DEAN, Box 99, Framingham MA 01701.

Honey brown lesbian from Dominican Republic, free spirited, seeking mental stimulation from other lesbians. Elizabeth JAIME, Box 535, Jessup MD 20794

SWF Bi 24 attractive, lonely, looking for penpal to write. Lisa GRIMSHAW, Box 99, Framingham, MA 01701.

My lover and I still have not succeeded in being put in the same unit so we can see each other [see GCN letters; April 5]. They wish they could break us up but they won't. Please tell the girls there they can write. We could use some friendly support from our own kind. Take care, Judy McNECE, 2591, 8000 W 7th Unit I, Pine Bluff AR 71603.



Would like to write a gay person, any race or quality of character. I like baseball, football and basketball. Thanks so very much. Robert Lee ANDERSON, EF-166918, 4600 Fulton Mill Rd, Macon GA 31213.

I am an artist for work (make stained glass when I have some to work with). Would really enjoy someone to talk with, hoping for friendship. Howie LORD, 460 Washington, Norwood MA 02062.

Put yourself in my place: stay in your room for 30 days or more, no mail, no phone, no visits, nothing. Then you'll feel some (!) of the loneliness I feel (but not the meanness and rejection we get here!). I'm just depressed and lonely and want someone to write. Your letter (and photo if you have one to spare) would make me feel freer and less lonely. Donald P. HOLES, 333976, Rt 2 Box 20, Midway TX 75852.

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Multiracial group for all people. Call (415) 431-1976 or write BWMT, suite 140, 580 Castro St. SF, CA, 94114. (v14.15)

LESBIANS

Are you lesbian, Bisexual or unsure? Looking for a group to go to? Come join us at BAGLY. Call tony, 497-8282 (v13.32)

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MAN/BOY LOVE

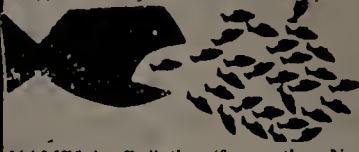
A support group for intergenerational relationships. For more information send \$1 to: NAMBLA-GCNAD at 537 Jones ST. NO 8418, S.F. CA 94102 or PO Box 174, New York, New York 10018. (v14.23)

CONCORD MEN'S GROUP

A support group in Central N.H. for Gay and Bi-sexual men on Fri. at 7:30 pm. For more info, call Gay Info-line of N.H. at (603) 753-9533. (v14.18)

Prisoners Seeking Friends

To all those who in and out of prison fight against their bondage. -Alexander Berkman, Prisoner Memoirs Of An Anarchist



NAMBLA Bulletin (from the North American Man-Boy Love Assoc. Is available for FREE to persons imprisoned for consensual sex with minors. Write: Rock Thatcher, Box 32697, Phoenix AZ 85064.



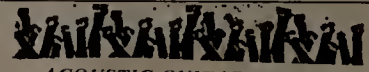
AIDS Info needed!!!

The Los Angeles Lavender Left is concerned about AIDS in prisons. We need info from prisoners to help make plans about what to do. We are only a few and may not be able to write back but please send us your story, especially California prisoners! Mark Kostopoulos, Lavender Left, Box 17241, Los Angeles CA 90017.



TV—TS Support!

Any incarcerated gays or transsexuals can contact any of the below prisoners for info on the legal, surgical, endocrinological (hormonal), or psychological aspects of transsexuals or gays and the law. We are forming an organization: TIP (Transsexuals In Prison), Allyn SCRIBNER, 380398 Ellis 1-C-6, Huntsville TX 77343; M.J. ASHFORD, 1479 Collins Ave, Marysville OH 43040; or Vanessa MERIWETHER, 24493-18-2A, Box 30, Pendleton IN 46064.



ACOUSTIC GUITAR anyone?

If you know anyone that has an acoustic guitar laying around they'd be willing to donate to a good cause, it doesn't really matter about the shape it's in, as long as it will hold strings, I'd really appreciate this way to make my "time" more fun and useful. Michael WELLS, A-085975, PO Box 1500 (818), Cross City FL 32628

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CAL. PRISONERS!!

I'm looking for writers to form a new collective which could bring a few \$ for each writer involved. Please send a sample and experience (if any) to: James BAYT, C-18132, PO Box 1902, Tehachapi, CA 93561.

University grad/bottom looking for well-endowed top. Parole in August. Your photo will get mine. Charles E. "Chip" SKINNER, 2323 East Ave J, Omaha NE 68110.

Male interested in correspondence that could lead to meaningful relationship. TVs and TSs most welcome. Youth and race are no barrier. I love poetry and reading. John Dixon WILSON, 345122, Rt 4 Box 1200, Rosharon TX 77583

I enjoyed the copy of "Torch Song Trilogy" that you sent immensely! Thank you. I'd like to ask for a penpal if possible. I enjoy the outdoors, good food, good music (rock, blues, jazz, country). Please include SASE if possible. Kenneth SHERRY, PO Box 30, 6319, Pendleton IN 46064.

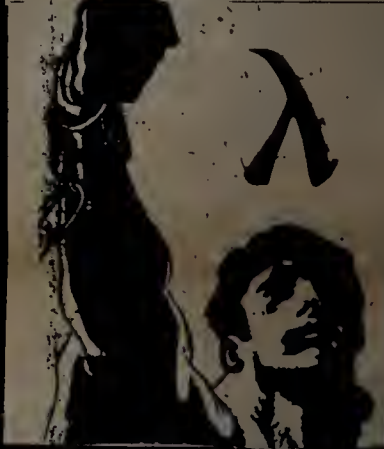
Gay man looking for correspondents. I don't care about the race, sex or age. I'm lonely and I need letters to make this time go by. I will answer all mail. Charles Ray STEVENS, 306171, Rt 4 Box 1200, Rosharon TX 77583.

I'm a single gay male interested in corresponding with intelligent, responsible individuals. My interests include travel, light rock, country and classical music, art, reading, dancing, etc. I'd like to develop a lasting friendship. Rick CLAWSON, 418905, Box 38, Huntsville TX 77344.

GM into sucking dicks and pitching in butt fucking would love to meet gays. I'm into occult, non-smoker, and am kind and understanding. Prefer to live in south or west. Kenny MURPHY, 914 7th Ave SE, Decatur AL 35601.

I would like to hear from anyone who would care to have an honest open penpal friendship. Will answer for sure. Donald POWELL, 38437, Box 2, Lansing KS 66043.

I am seeking friendship. Like reading, travel, writing and people. Send pix if possible. Thanks, Mike BARRINGER, 172-271, Box 45699, Lucasville OH 45699



RESORTS

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Well situated building near Porter Sq. subway. Currently divided in to three units. Top floor unit renovated with unique interior and two decks. Owner planning to sell entire house, or two large condominium units. Ideal property for group house or joint tennancy with 2 or 3 separate apts. Please reply to GCN Box 79

RACIAL CONTENT PROJECT

GCN needs a researcher to look over the last six months of issues and figure the average percentage of Third World content. Call Loie, 426-4469. (C)

TRAVEL

VANCOUVER - CANADA - EXPO '86 CHARTER CRUISES

Sail away aboard your own crewed charter sailboat. Exclusive reservations available for lesbian women and gay men, their families and friends aboard a luxury cruising sloop. Minimum half day cruises. For reservations and details call (604) 228-8046, 263-5645, 290-2868. Mastercard - Visa Accepted. (v14.5)

CALENDAR

May 17
to
May 29

17 saturday

Somerville — Libana in concert. Somerville Theatre. 8PM. \$8, \$6 elders & children. Info: 625-1081.

Cambridge — Cycle for Life reception at Paradise Cafe. 7:30PM. Info: 522-9194.

Cambridge — City Life/Vida Urbana presents dramatic commemoration of **May Day**. Multi-Cultural Arts Center, 41 2nd St. Dance: 10PM-2AM. \$5. Cash bar. Info: 524-3541.

Brookline — Voice of the Turtle, The Klezmer Conservatory Band in concert. Kehillath Israel, 384 Harvard St. 8:45PM. \$10. Info: 576-1801.

Somerville — Somerville/Medford **GALA** potluck. Video: *The Boys in the Band*. 7:30PM. Info: 628-5875.

Cambridge — Angry Arts presents *Abuse* by Arthur Bressan. YWCA, 7 Temple St. 7:30 PM. \$2.75. Also 5/18. Info: 625-9279.

18 sunday

Cambridge — Book party with Judith Tick, co-editor of *Women Making Music: The Western Art Tradition, 1150-1950*. New Words Bookstore, 186 Hampshire St., Inman Sq. 2-4PM. Info: 876-5310.

Cambridge — Cambridge **Neighborhood GALA** potluck supper. 6PM. Info: David, 497-6197 or Kathryn, 661-6896.

Watertown — **GLOW** monthly meeting. 7PM. Info: Gail, 924-5716 or Deb/Paul, 924-6044.



Abuse, 17 saturday

Boston — N.E.R.A.D. (New England Rainbow Alliance for the Deaf) general meeting. 74 Joy St. 1PM Info: Richard, TTY only: 825-7750.

Salem — North Shore Gay & Lesbian Alliance third annual fundraising **auction**. Old Town Hall. 3PM, silent auction; 4PM, live auction. \$1 admission. Info: 745-3848.

Boston — Metropolitan Community Church, a Christian church of the gay & lesbian community. 131 Cambridge St. 7PM. Info: 523-7664.

Jamaica Plain — Lesbian/Gay Neighbors monthly potluck. Speaker: Atty. Katherine Triantafyllou. All welcome. \$1 donation. First Church Hall, Centre & Eliot Sts. 4-7PM. Info: 522-3894 or 522-6090.

Boston — Cycle for Life bikes from Gardner Museum (11AM) to a rally at Government Center. Info: 522-9194.

Dorchester — Silent Movies with Dorchester GALA. Gloria Swanson featured. 7PM. Info: 288-0391.



Libana, 17 saturday

19 monday

Cambridge — Self-Help group for drug addicts. Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 7:30-9PM.

Cambridge — Lesbian Mothers & Co-mothers discussion. Daughters of Bilitis, 1151 Mass. Ave., Old Cambridge Baptist Church. 8PM. \$1. Info: 661-3633.

Cambridge — Lecture by Mary Daly as part of WITCH's series. Harvard Divinity's Sperry Room. 8PM. \$5 more if/less if. Info: 491-3549.

20 tuesday

Boston — Councillor David Scondras to speak. Hill House, 74 Joy St., Beacon Hill. 7:30PM. Sponsored by New England Gay & Lesbian Veterans. Info: 262-9793.

Boston — Legacy, for gay & lesbian elders & friends, meeting. Cambridge Committee of Elders, Pearl St., Central Sq. 6-8PM. Info: 725-3485.

21 wednesday

Cambridge — Feminist Discussion Group. Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 8-10PM. Info: 354-8807.

Cambridge — Lesbian Al-Anon. Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 6:30-8PM. Info: 354-8807.

Worcester — Open Forum on AIDS with Gary Beauregard, speaker. Grove St. Gallery, 100 Grove St., 3rd floor. 8-10PM. Free & open to the public. Info: Dana, 755-7931.

Boston — Workshop for committed women partners of survivors of child sexual abuse. Day-long. Info: 522-6813.

Framingham — "The Threat to Your Reproductive Choices in 1986," a panel discussion. Scott Hall, First Parish, 24 Vernon St. 7:30PM.

Providence, RI — Cycle for Life reception at Fountain Royale, 1910 Westminister. Info: (617) 522-9194.

Cambridge — Women 50+ discussion. Daughters of Bilitis, 1151 Mass. Ave., Old Cambridge Baptist Church. 8PM. \$1. Info: 661-3633.

Cambridge — Feminist Cluster for individuals and affinity groups interested in direct action. Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St., Central Sq. 7:30PM. Info: 522-5490.

22 thursday

Boston — GCN's production night: all welcome to proofread & paste-up pages. 5-7PM for proofreading, 8PM-midnight for paste-up. 167 Tremont St., near Park & Boylston T-stops. GCN: 426-4469.

Boston — Sculptural installations at Park St. T-station. 11AM-7PM. Through Saturday. Info: 491-7847.

Cambridge — Joan Larkin to read from her new book, *A Long Sound*. New Words Bookstore, 186 Hampshire St., Inman Sq. 7:30PM. Free. Info: 876-5310.

23 friday

Boston — GCN's volunteer night: all welcome to help mail the paper to our subscribers. Refreshments, good times. Anytime after 6PM. 167-Tremont St., near Park & Boylston T-stops. GCN: 426-4469.

Boston — Symposium on Diet and AIDS, sponsored by the Kushi Foundation. B.U. Science Center Auditorium, 560 Comm Ave. 7:30PM. Info: 738-0045.

Camden, ME — Windjammer Sailing Trip with the Chiltern Mtn. Club. 3 day trip. Info: Wes, (617) 625-4845.

Boston — Tenth Annual Gay Alcoholics Anonymous of Eastern Mass. Round-Up. Josiah Quincy School, 885 Washington St. Info: 426-9444.

24 saturday

Boston — Black & White Men Together/Boston sixth anniversary celebration featuring Bayard Rustin. The Forum, Lamont Library, Harvard Univ. 2PM. Info: John Bush, 1396 Drift Rd., Westport, MA 02790.

Cambridge — Boston Area Women's Self-defense Collective accepting new students. Central Sq. 4:30-6:30PM. Info: 574-9433.

25 sunday

Jamaica Plain — Blackbird Coffeehouse presents Jennifer & Amelia and Alfonso Vilallonga. Corner of Centre & Eliot Sts. Info: 522-5698.

26 monday

Boston — Candlelight Walk and Interfaith Service in Memory of Those Who Have Died of AIDS. Boylston T-station, 8PM, walk to Old South Church. 8:30PM, Memorial Service. Info: Rev. Jennifer Phillips, 868-6589 or David Passer, 623-3366.

27 tuesday

Cambridge — Younger Lesbians 22 and under. Daughters of Bilitis, 1151 Mass. Ave., Old Cambridge Baptist Church. 8PM. \$1. Newcomers welcome. Info: 661-3633.

29 thursday

Boston — Gay Games Boston team organizing. Speaker and Gay Games I videos. Fritz, 26 Chandler St., at Berkeley. 8PM. Info: Jeff, 666-4283 or 267-0328.

Dorchester — Dorchester GALA Bridge with Scot & Bill. 7:30PM. Info: Scot, 282-9348 or Rudy, 282-5671.

note this!

Smooth Talk. Directed by Joyce Chopra. Screenplay by Tom Cole from the short story *Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been* by Joyce Carol Oates. With Laura Dern, Treat Williams, Mary Kay Place, Levon Helm. At the Nickelodeon, Boston.

"When I look in your eyes, all I see are a bunch of trashy daydreams" says Katherine (Mary Kay Place) to her teenage daughter Connie (Laura Dern). And we can see what she means: Connie and her friends, on summer vacation, live for cruising the mall, days at the beach and dreams of meeting boys. But because of Joyce Chopra's sensitive direction and Laura Dern's wonderfully detailed performance, we see a lot more in Connie — her insecurity, her desire to know more of life, and her earliest sexual stirrings. They may be trashy daydreams but they are the fodder of all adolescence.

The first half of *Smooth Talk* is an examination of white middle-class, Southern California, teen-girl culture. But the second half of the film shows how trashy daydreams can get out of hand and turn nightmare. While alone at her parent's house, Connie is confronted with sexy, crazy Arnold Friend (Treat Williams). "Hi. My name is Arnold Friend and that is what I want to be to you. A friend." Although unclear at first — he is presented as realistically as everyone else in the film — Arnold turns out to be Connie's trashiest, most threatening daydream. Part James Dean, part tender lover, part unmitigated maniac, Arnold Friend is the extreme embodiment of Connie's longing to explore, and fear of, her own sexuality: pleasure and danger in a sweaty tee-shirt and tight jeans.

What saves *Smooth Talk* from being just a trashy male daydream, and an incipient psycho-noir, is the sensitivity that both Dern and Chopra bring to Connie, her feelings and sexuality. Always examining her from the inside, she never becomes an object of exploitation or easy projection. In a world filled with teen/sex/slash movies, *Smooth Talk* is a serious, moving and frightening meditation on adolescent women trying to come to terms with their sexuality in an off-kilter world of mixed messages.

— Michael Bronski

Society for Individual Rights

The nation's first large multi-service gay organization, the Society for Individual Rights, will resurface 12 years after its last meeting for a reunion in San Francisco, June 25. Information: Great Reunion, 501 Teresita Blvd., San Francisco CA 94127.

Gay/Lesbian Parenting Conference

Gay Fathers Coalition International sponsors the Seventh Annual Conference on Gay and Lesbian Parenting Issues in Chicago, June 6-8. Registration: \$100. Information: 1986 GFCI Conference Committee, Horizons Parents Group, 3225 N. Sheffield, Chicago, IL 60657.

Super-8 Gay Film Festival

Super-8 films are now being accepted to compete in the Second International Gay Film Festival, to be held in Brussels, Belgium. A total of six awards will be given to super-8 films based on "a homosexual topic or inspiration." All entries must be postmarked by August 1, 1986, and be received in Brussels no later than the 22nd of that month. Rules and entry form: Antenne Rose, PO Box 888, 1000 Brussels, Belgium.

Calendar compiled by Miranda Kolbe

GAY COMMUNITY NEWS

THE BUSINESS GUIDE

This guide provides information about businesses and services. For details about staffing or supportive businesses and services, see the directory about having your business listed for just \$100 per year, please call Laurie Sherman at (617) 426-4469.

ACCOMMODATIONS OASIS GUEST HOUSE 22 Egerly Road Boston, MA 02115 (617) 267-2262	CINEMA TREMONT ART 1 & 2 204 Tremont Street Boston, MA 02111 482-4662	INSURANCE DAVID L. COLLINS, CLU Suite 830 50 Congress St. Boston, MA 02109 1-800-352-3185	MEDICAL/COUNSELING, cont. GAY AND LESBIAN COUNSELING SERVICE 600 Washington St. Boston, MA 02111 Room 219 542-5188	PLASTERING DAVERIK ASSOCIATES FRED CRIMALDI 2 Woodworth St. Dorchester, MA 02122 282-3961
ACCOUNTING/BOOKKEEPING AT YOUR SERVICE 634 Mass Ave. Cambridge, MA 02139 (617) 547-7117	CLEANING GRIMESOLVERS Residential and Commercial Cleaning Service 501 Shirley Street Winthrop, MA 02152 846-5146	KUNEVICH & LAU INSURANCE AGENCY 241 Washington St. Brookline, MA 02146 731-1015	FRANCIS GIAMBRONE, MA Counseling 110 Orchard St. Somerville Ma. 02144 628-6988	PRINTING RED SUN PRESS 94 Green St. Jamaica Plain, MA 02130 524-6822
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